ふじた

ヲタクに恋は難しい 2

二迅社

THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL!
...'S NOT LIKE I HAVE A FACE THAT'S WORTH GOING AROUND SHOWING TO PEOPLE.
tch
...IT'S JUST EMBARRASSING.

GRAB
UHG
YOU CAN SHUT UP NOW.
COSPLAYERS CAN MAKE UP FOR POOR LOOKS WITH THEIR LOVE FOR THE CHARACTER TO SOME EXTENT, SO...

THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM HERE!
RIGHT, NIFUJI!? YOU TELL HER TOO!
I THINK YOU'RE MAKING FAR TOO BIG A DEAL OUT OF THIS.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'LL BE PUTTING ON MAKE-UP AND CROSSDRESSING OR ANYTHING.

ヲタクに恋は難しい

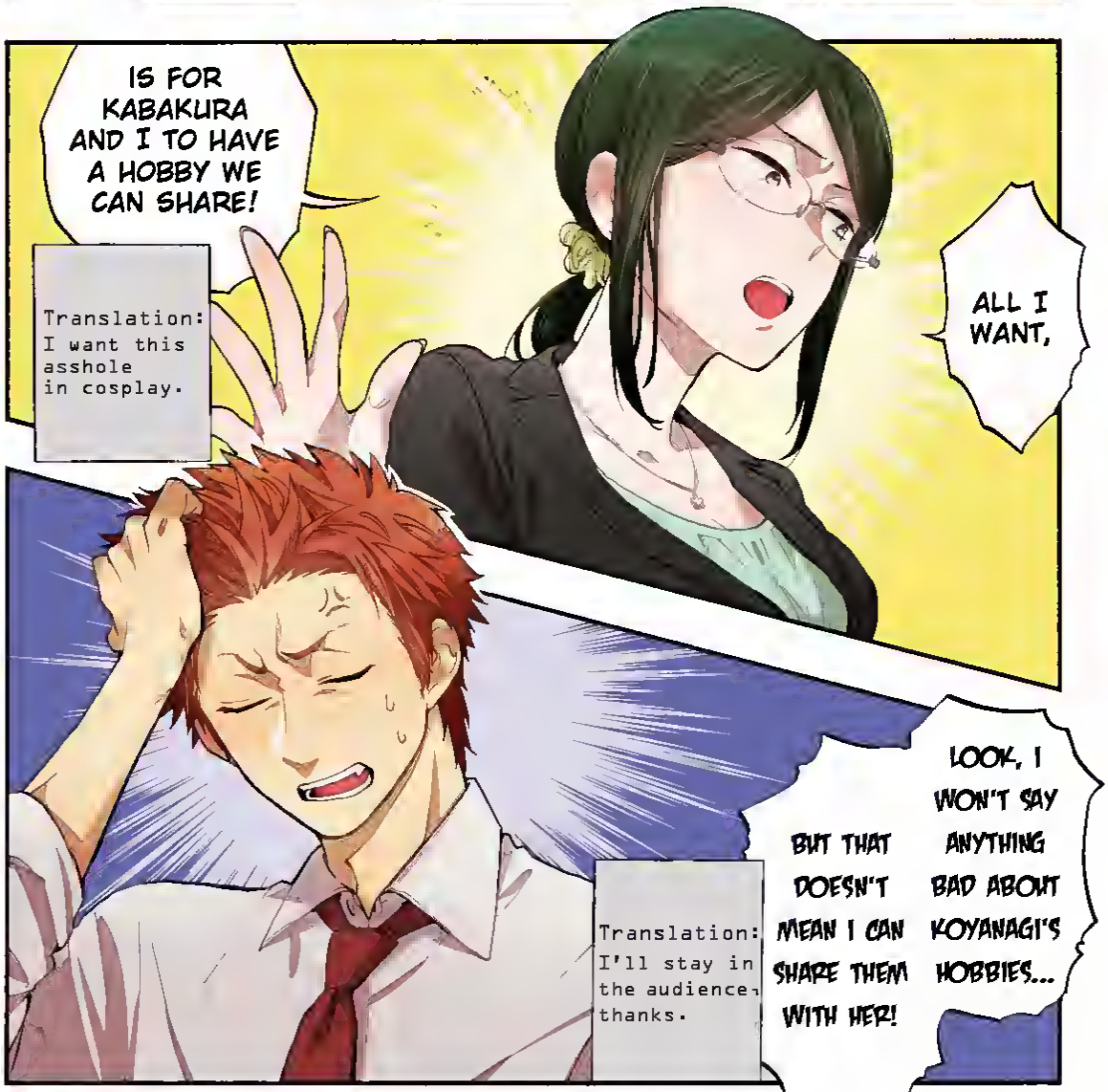
②

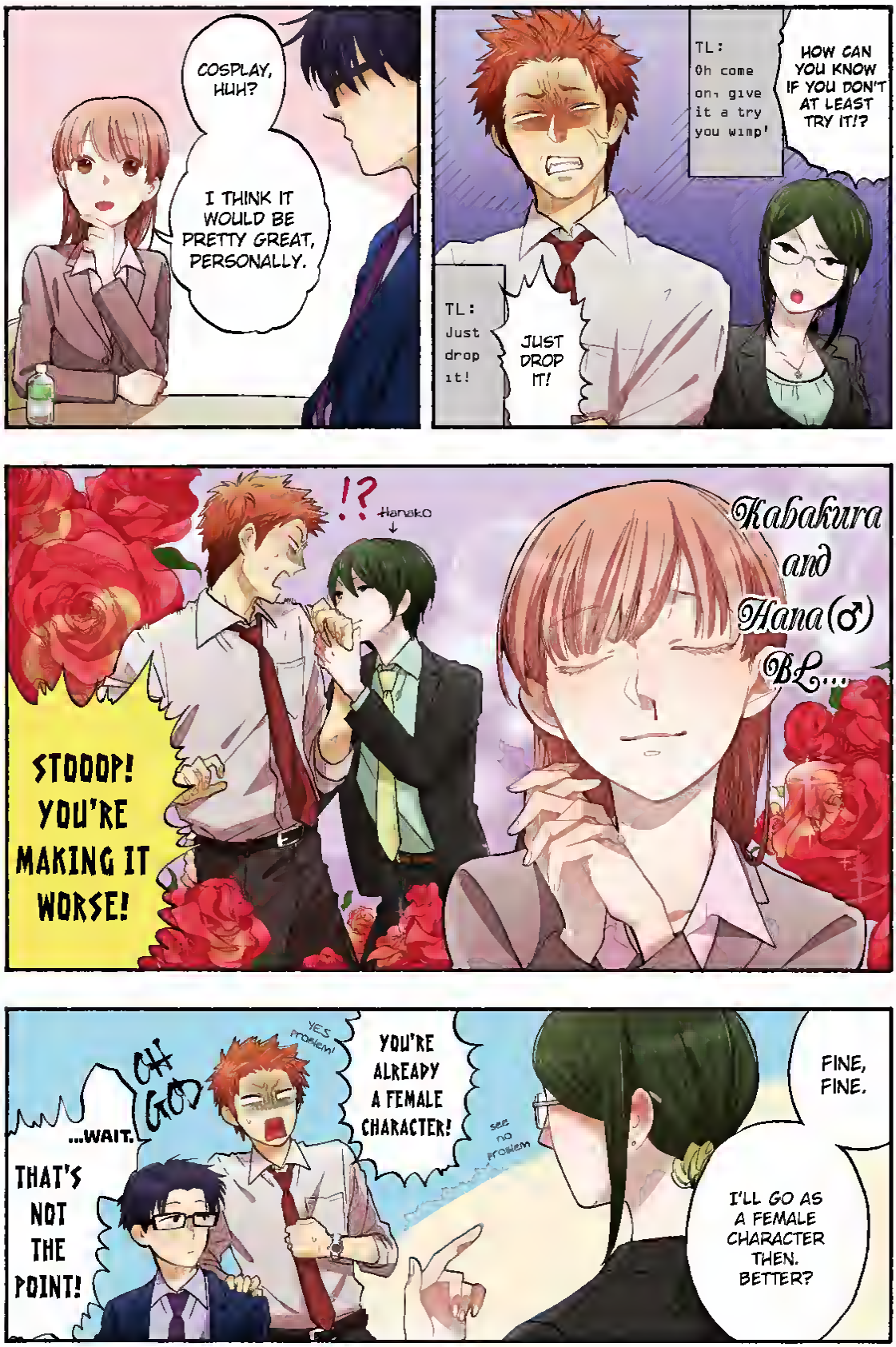
ふじた

一迅社　Wotaku ni koi ha Muzukashii

Episode. 6
CAN YOU TRY TALKING SOME SENSE INTO THIS ←IDIOT COW→ FOR ME.
MOMOSE?
NIFUJI?

HIM.
HER.
point
point
MAYBE TRY TELLING US WHAT YOU'RE FIGHTING ABOUT, FIRST?
WHICH ONE OF YOU STARTED TODAY'S FIGHT?
SO...
close


IS FOR KABAKURA AND I TO HAVE A HOBBY WE CAN SHARE!
Translation: I want this asshole in cosplay.
ALL I WANT,
Translation: I'll stay in the audience, thanks.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN SHARE THEM WITH HER!
LOOK, I WON'T SAY ANYTHING BAD ABOUT KOYANAGI'S HOBBIES...


COSPLAY, HUH?
I THINK IT WOULD BE PRETTY GREAT, PERSONALLY.
TL: Oh come on, give it a try you wimp!
HOW CAN YOU KNOW IF YOU DON'T AT LEAST TRY IT!?
TL: Just drop it!
JUST DROP IT!
!?
Hanako
Kabakura and Hana(♂) BL...
STOOOP! YOU'RE MAKING IT WORSE!
OH GOD
...WAIT.
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
YES problem!
YOU'RE ALREADY A FEMALE CHARACTER!
see no problem
FINE, FINE.
I'LL GO AS A FEMALE CHARACTER THEN. BETTER?

THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL!
...'S NOT LIKE I HAVE A FACE THAT'S WORTH GOING AROUND SHOWING TO PEOPLE.
tch
...IT'S JUST EMBARRASSING.

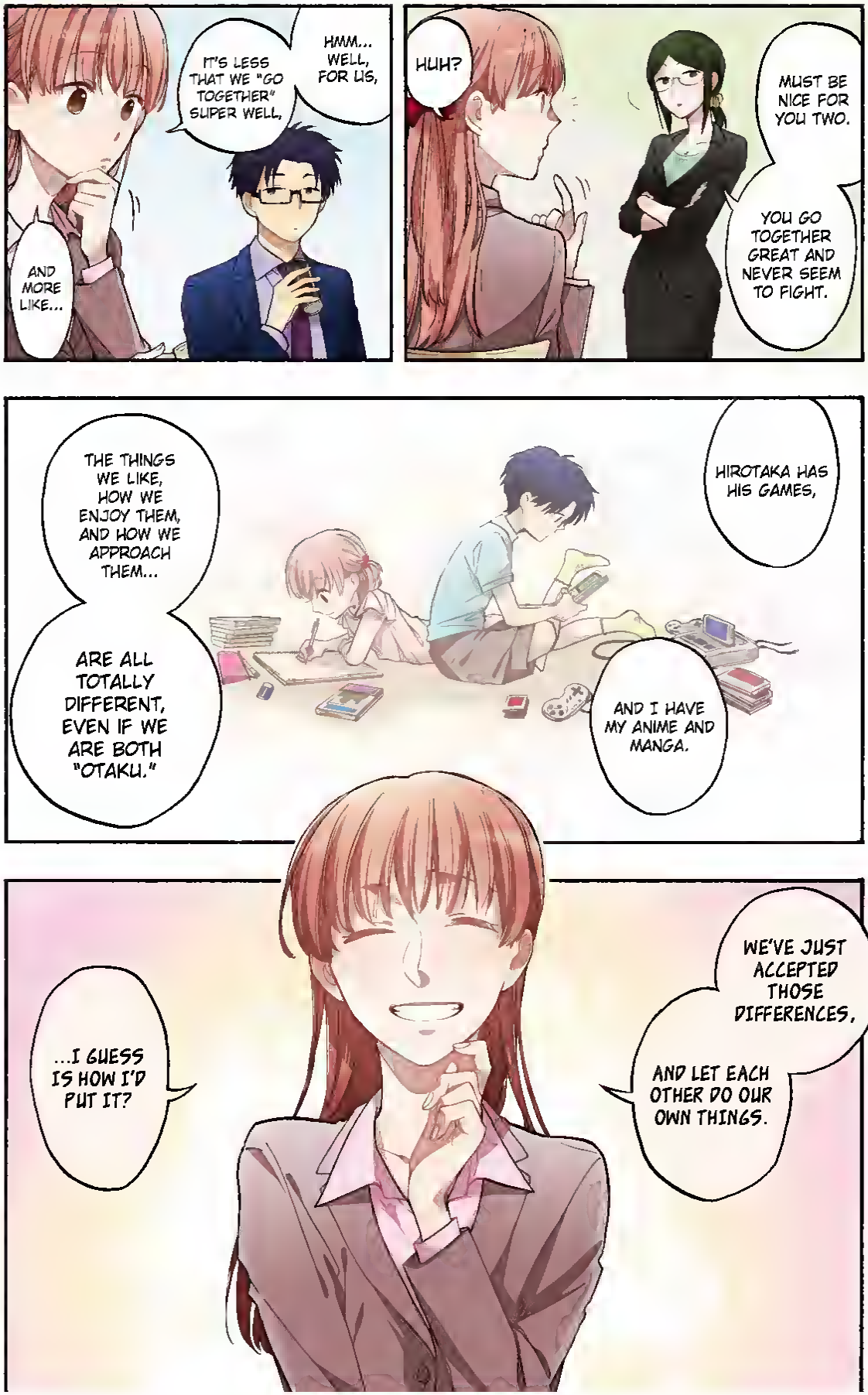
GRAB
UHG
YOU CAN SHUT UP NOW.
COSPLAYERS CAN MAKE UP FOR POOR LOOKS WITH THEIR LOVE FOR THE CHARACTER TO SOME EXTENT, SO...

THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM HERE!
RIGHT, NIFUJI!? YOU TELL HER TOO!
I THINK YOU'RE MAKING FAR TOO BIG A DEAL OUT OF THIS.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'LL BE PUTTING ON MAKE-UP AND CROSSDRESSING OR ANYTHING.

Sure
Ready?
Want me to take the tie off?
WHAT KIND OF OTAKU DOESN'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE EMBARRASSED?
hmph
WHAT KIND OF OTAKU WON'T EVEN COSPLAY?
hmph
SO YOU DID! DON'T REMIND ME!
It wasn't that bad
WELL, I DID IT MYSELF BEFORE THAT ONCE.

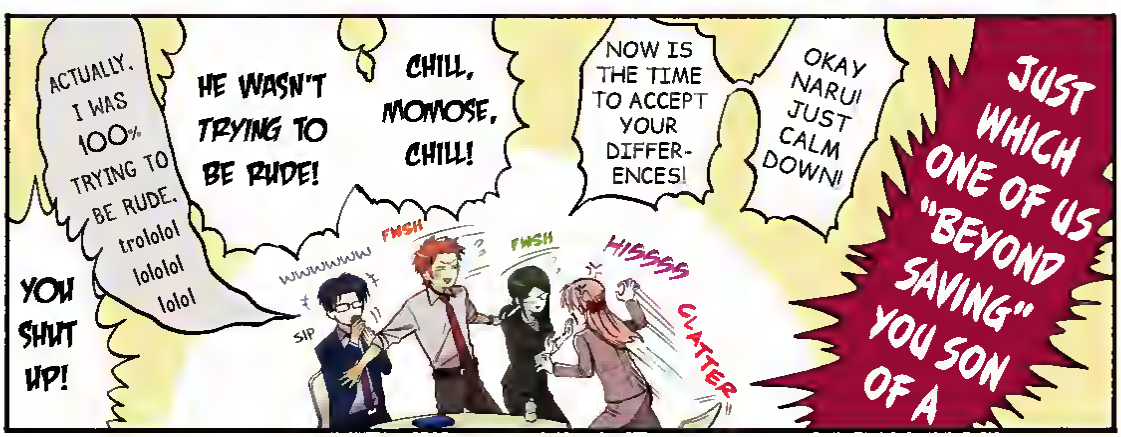
IT'S BECAUSE OF OTAKU LIKE YOU WHO GET ALL WEIRD ABOUT IT THAT REGULAR PEOPLE THINK WE'RE A BUNCH OF FREAKS! I'M NOT HIDING IT, I JUST KNOW HOW TO DO THINGS IN MODERATION. UNLIKE YOU!
EVERYTHING ABOUT BEING AN OTAKU IS EMBARRASSING! AND IT REALLY PISSES ME OFF HOW YOU ALWAYS TRY TO PLAY THE "NORMAL PERSON" EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE AN OTAKU, TOO! TRYING TO HIDE IT LIKE THAT JUST MAKES IT EVEN MORE EMBARRASSING, YOU COWARD!

IT'S PRETTY IMPRESSIVE YOU CAN SAY THAT IN FRONT OF THIS.
BEING ABLE TO GET INTO FIGHTS WITH SOMEONE IS PROOF THAT YOU'RE CLOSE.
WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY.


HMM... WELL, FOR US,
IT'S LESS THAT WE "GO TOGETHER" SUPER WELL,
AND MORE LIKE...
HUH?
MUST BE NICE FOR YOU TWO.
YOU GO TOGETHER GREAT AND NEVER SEEM TO FIGHT.
THE THINGS WE LIKE, HOW WE ENJOY THEM, AND HOW WE APPROACH THEM...
ARE ALL TOTALLY DIFFERENT, EVEN IF WE ARE BOTH "OTAKU."
HIROTAKA HAS HIS GAMES,
AND I HAVE MY ANIME AND MANGA.
...I GUESS IS HOW I'D PUT IT?
WE'VE JUST ACCEPTED THOSE DIFFERENCES,
AND LET EACH OTHER DO OUR OWN THINGS.

I FIGURE NARUMI IS BEYOND SAVING AT THIS POINT. SO I'VE JUST GIVEN UP ON TRYING.
YEAH.

STAND...


ACTUALLY, I WAS 100% TRYING TO BE RUDE. trololol lololol lolol
HE WASN'T TRYING TO BE RUDE!
CHILL, MOMOSE, CHILL!
NOW IS THE TIME TO ACCEPT YOUR DIFFER-ENCES!
OKAY NARU! JUST CALM DOWN!
JUST WHICH ONE OF US "BEYOND SAVING" YOU SON OF A
YOU SHUT UP!
wwwwww
SIP
FWSH
FWSH
HISSSS
CLATTER

Credits!

Artist and Author: Fujita

Notes!

When Hirotaka says:

"BEING ABLE TO GET INTO FIGHTS WITH SOMEONE IS PROOF THAT YOU'RE CLOSE."

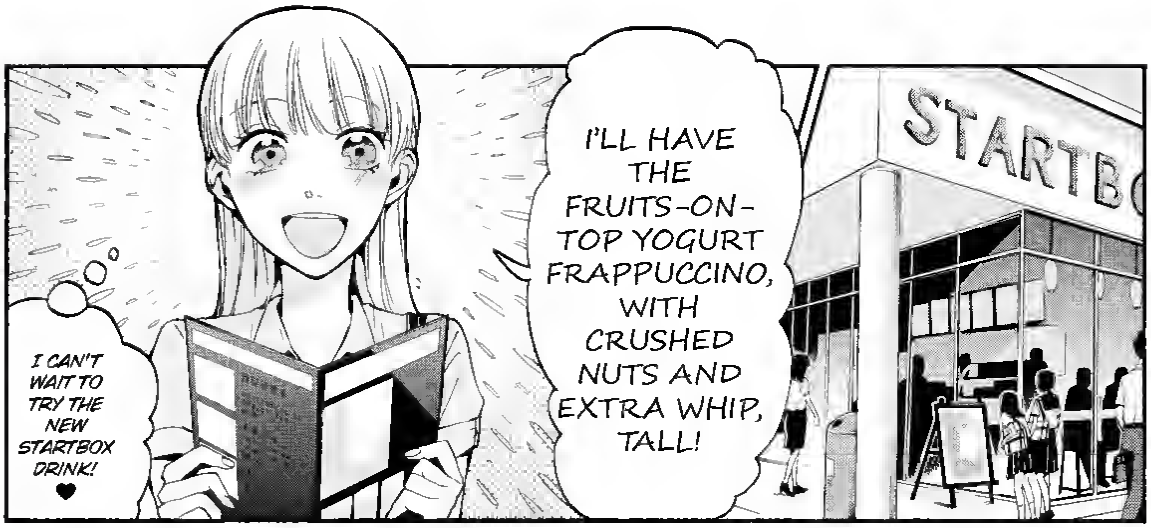
He's referring to a Japanese saying that, well, means basically just that:
that two people fighting or arguing is proof that they get along.

The idea is that, with someone you don't know that well,
you wouldn't care enough to actually fight; instead you'd ignore them,
break off the relation, feign politeness, or do whatever.

(I think it's safe to assume it doesn't apply to stuff like two strangers fighting over a fender bender or something.)

Not much in the way of notes this time, so have a random thing I found on Pixiv:

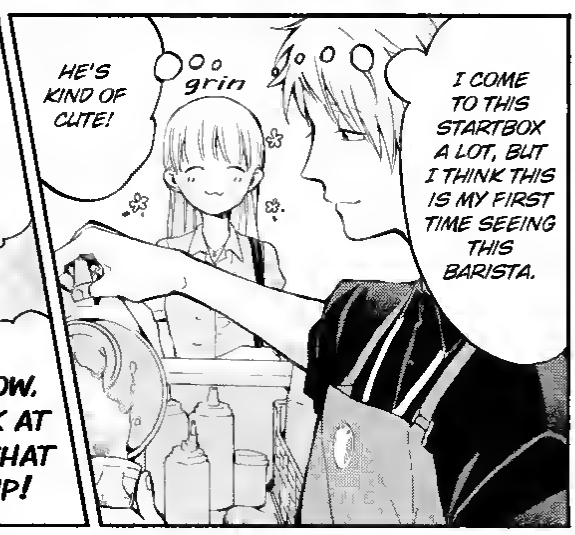
Episode....7


I CAN'T WAIT TO TRY THE NEW STARTBOX DRINK!
I'LL HAVE THE FRUITS-ON-TOP YOGURT FRAPPUCCINO, WITH CRUSHED NUTS AND EXTRA WHIP, TALL!
STARTB

IN THAT CASE, I'LL REALLY PILE ON THE WHIP FOR YOU!
smile
AH! T-THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

TOO BAD TAKAHIRO DOESN'T LIKE SWEET STUFF, OR I'D HAVE BROUGHT HIM ALONG.
OH, I DON'T NEED A LID.
GREAT.
CUSTOMER WITH THE FRUITS-ON-TOP YOGURT FRAPPUC-CINO, WITH CRUSHED NUTS AND EXTRA WHIP, TALL...
WE'RE MAKING YOUR ORDER NOW!

BE CAREFUL NOT TO SPILL ANY!
HERE YOU GO!
I TRIED TO FIT AS MUCH AS I COULD!
THANKS!
WOOW. LOOK AT ALL THAT WHIP!


HE'S KIND OF CUTE!
grin
I COME TO THIS STARTBOX A LOT, BUT I THINK THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING THIS BARISTA.

UH, S-SURE, WHAT IS IT!?
HUH!?
UM...
DO YOU MIND IF I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
OH CRAP!
WAS I STARING TOO MUCH?
YOU'RE NARUMI...
AREN'T YOU?
!?
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR MY BREAK, DO YOU MIND IF I COME OVER TO CHAT FOR A BIT?
OF COURSE NOT! YEAH, COME ON OVER!
OH MY GOD! NAO. IS THAT YOU!?
THAT'S CRAZY! I COULDN'T TELL AT ALL!
HAHA, I THOUGHT SO.
BINGO!

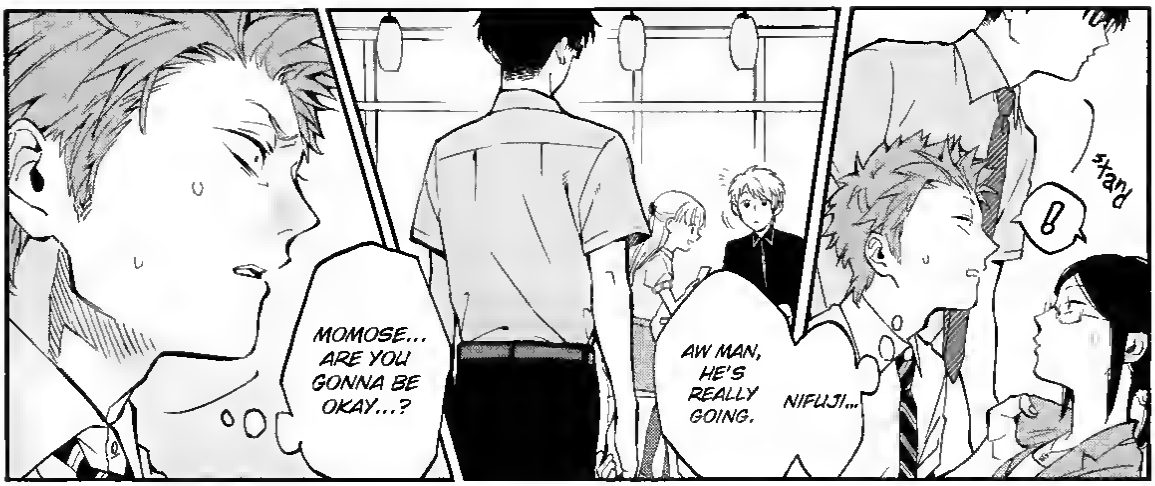
...UH.
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
BUT IF I HAD TO GUESS... BASED ON HOW CLOSE THEY LOOK,
E'S R X-
STOP RIGHT THERE!
and put away that thumb!
Kabakura still has some illusions about Narumi!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ASKED.
waggle
...AL- RIGHT!
CLUTCH
no, not alright
I'M GOING IN-
HURK
COOL IT, BAKAKURA.
THIS IS THEIR ISSUE, NO? THIRD PARTIES SHOULDN'T BE GETTING INVOLVED.
BESIDES, I THOUGHT YOU HATED WHEN PEOPLE STUCK THERE NOSE WHERE IT DIDN'T BELONG?
...SURE, BUT, IS IT REALLY ALRIGHT TO NOT DO ANYTHING!?

...YEAH, I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.
ANYWAY, I'M SURE NARUMI'S HAD HER FAIR SHARE OF ROMANCES.
IF SHE HAS EXES SHE CAN STILL LAUGH WITH AS A FRIEND, ISN'T THAT A GOOD THING?
this cat is really rare!
which one?
AND WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
HAVE THEY NEVER HEARD OF PERSONAL SPACE!?
YOU CAN BE PRETTY INNOCENT, DESPITE THAT FACE, CAN'T YOU?
FOR NARUMI? YEAH, THAT'S ABOUT NORMAL.
AREN'T THEIR FACES TOO CLOSE? IS THAT NORMAL?
...BUT IS IT REALLY?

IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE IS IN THE WRONG HERE...
OR DOING ANYTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF...
AND WHY ARE YOU GETTING ALL WORKED UP ANYWAY?
WH-
OH COME ON, I AM NOT WORKED UP!
WHAT ARE YOU, HER DAD?
NOPE,
I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE DIGGING UP THE PAST LIKE THAT.
IF IT WERE YOU.
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'D AT LEAST WANT TO BE AWARE OF IT?
IF IT WAS YOU,
...OH, WELL, BUT I MEAN,
...IT'S JUST THAT, IF IT WERE ME,
I DON'T THINK I WOULD HAVE WANTED TO SEE IT.
THAT'S ALL.
OW, HOT.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT?
YOU KNOW, IF IT WERE YOU.
IF YOU'RE PLANNING ON A LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S BETTER TO GO AHEAD AND DEAL WITH ANY SMALL DOUBTS LIKE THAT?
BUT LIKE, IF THERE'S REALLY NOTHING FISHY GOING ON, YOU COULD JUST TALK IT OVER AND BE SURE.

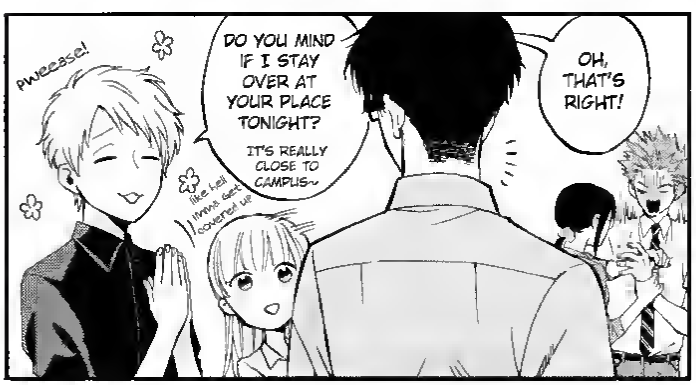
I'M ONLY HERE BECAUSE I WAS CALLED
BY KOYA-NAGI.
KOYANAGI!!!!
WHA-!? NIFU... HUH!? WHY!?
UM... NOT SURE HOW I'M SUPPOSED TO ANSWER THAT.
I WAS WONDERING WHY THE HELL YOU WERE MESSING WITH YOUR PHONE...!
IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME!

?
WHY THE HELL WOULD YOU THINK THAT WAS A GOOD IDEA!?
I ALREADY SAID I WAS SORRY!!
NO YOU DIDN'T!
...?

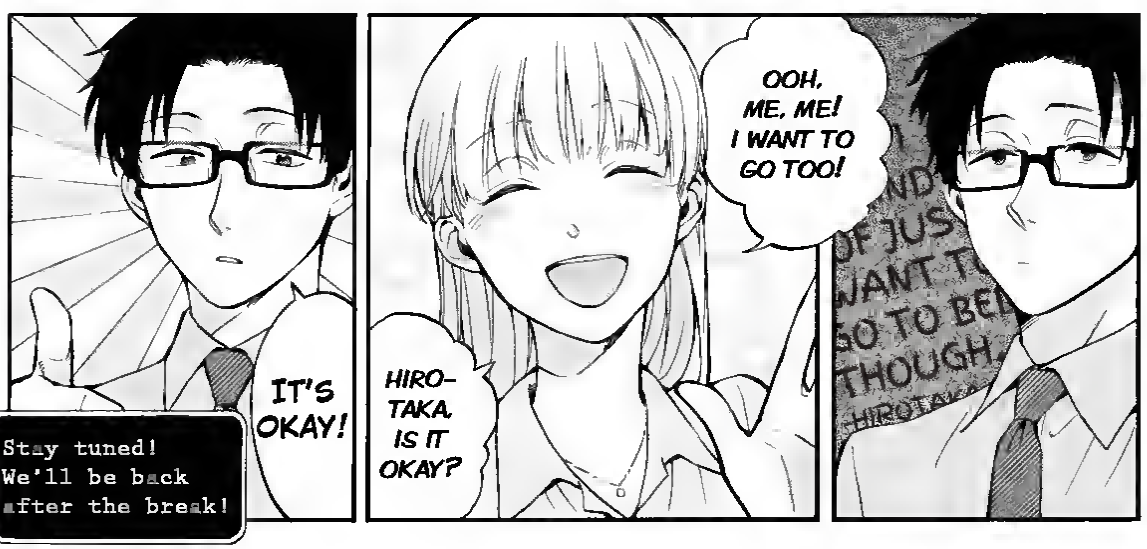

MOMOSE... ARE YOU GONNA BE OKAY...?
AW MAN, HE'S REALLY GOING.
NIFUJI...
stand
!

WAIT!
NIFUJI!
アー!!
...YOU'RE NOT. ARE YOU!?
Kabakura still has some illusions about Narumi!
HI RO TA KA.
THIS GUY'S JUST A FRIEND NOW.
YES?
!?
what are you doing at Startbox, Hirotaka?
oh, hey
CLATTER

SO,
THIS IS NIFUJI NAOYA.
HIROTAKA'S YOUNGER BROTHER BY SEVEN YEARS.
WE USED TO PLAY TOGETHER AT THEIR HOUSE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
You shoulda told me you and Narumi worked at the same company! I had no idea!
Well, you could have told me you were working so close by part time! I had no idea.
But I did tell you though, and not too long ago
...Really?
AND THIS IS HIS OLDER BROTHER, HIROTAKA.
YEAH WE KNOW THAT ONE ALREADY


Pweeease!
DO YOU MIND IF I STAY OVER AT YOUR PLACE TONIGHT?
IT'S REALLY CLOSE TO CAMPUS~
We let him get comfy up
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!

I WONDER, WHO WAS IT WHO SAID HE WAS HER-...
SO YOU WERE BROTHERS!
waggle
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR...


IT'S OKAY!
HIRO-TAKA, IS IT OKAY?
OOH, ME, ME! I WANT TO GO TOO!
Stay tuned! We'll be back after the break!

Nifuji Hirotaka

二藤宏嵩

▽Sunday Morning

Just now going to bed.

On waking up...	He's literally worthless for at least 10 minutes after waking up.
On staying up late...	Regardless of the time of day, he seems to become absurdly tired after being active for more than a certain length of time.

Momose Narumi

桃瀬成海

▽Sunday Morning

Realizes it's not a weekday as she walks out the door.

On waking up...	Only after she hits snooze a million times.
On staying up late...	Staying up all night is starting to make the next day rough for her. Not so young anymore.

Koyanagi Hanako

小和花子

▽Sunday Morning

Trying to wake her up just makes her want to sleep longer.

On waking up...	She can wake up fine if she has work, but otherwise has trouble.
On staying up late...	She tries, but always ends up nodding off before she realizes it.

Kabakura Tarou

椛倉太郎

▽Sunday Morning

Wakes up at the same time even without an alarm.

On waking up...	The slightest noise wakes him up. Often a little sleep deprived.
On staying up late...	He can't, so he records all the late night anime and marathons them on the weekend.

Credit Roll!

Author: Fujita
Artist: Fujita

Notes!

Yeah, it's Starbucks.

The line about "incantations" is poking fun of how long Starbucks orders are.
Specifically, I think it's comparing them to the "ressurection spell" in the old Dragon Quest games. This was before you had save files, so instead the game gave you a long string of letters (kana) that you had to write down and input by hand to load your game. Many other games used a similar mechanic (Megaman, anyone?), but it's most famous in the Japanese otaku scene with Dragon Quest 1&2.
When you went to load, it would ask you to "Enter the ressurection spell."
It's become something of a meme.

Japanese Starbucks doesn't do the "write your name on the cup" thing.

The thumb is a symbol for "boyfriend." Why? Well.
Do you know the phrase "pinky swear" in English? That actually comes from Japan!
(Probably)
So, a long time ago, it was a custom where certain types of prostitutes would cut off their pinky finger and give it to someone as a symbol of their eternal love.
(Though I have a feeling it was not nearly so consensual as that might possibly sound.)
Over time, the name for that custom (yubikiri) became synonymous with "a really serious promise, 4 realz," and the pinky swear was born
(and eventually made its way into English).
On top of that, the pinky finger became a symbol for a female lover as well.
Later, the thumb became the symbol of a male lover, but not for any big meaningful reason. It was just a convenient contrast to the pinky. :I

The pinky and thumb are also used for girlfriend and boyfriend, respectively, in Japanese sign language.

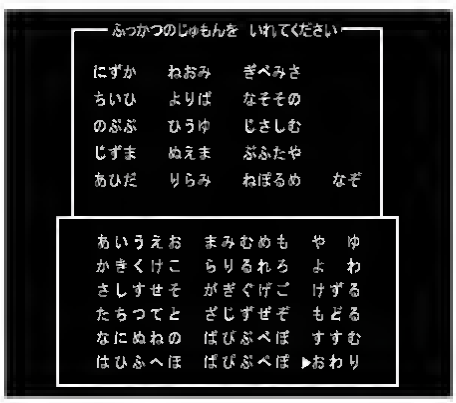
The cat thing Narumi is showing Nao on her phone is probably Neko Atsume, a smartphone game. About cats.

That "Clatter" sound effect pops up a lot--it's how I'm translating the Japanese sound effect for "getting up out of your chair (usually suddenly)." You see it Niconico comments and such a lot. I'll let you guess why (´—｀).

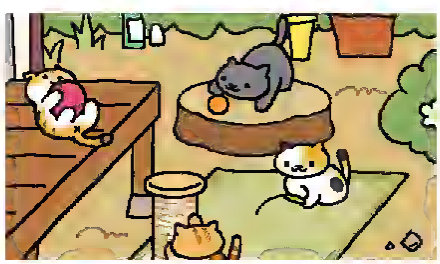
In case it's not clear, Narumi's "get covered up" line near the end is about her moving so that she's visible in panel, as she would otherwise have gotten covered by Hirotaka in the foreground.

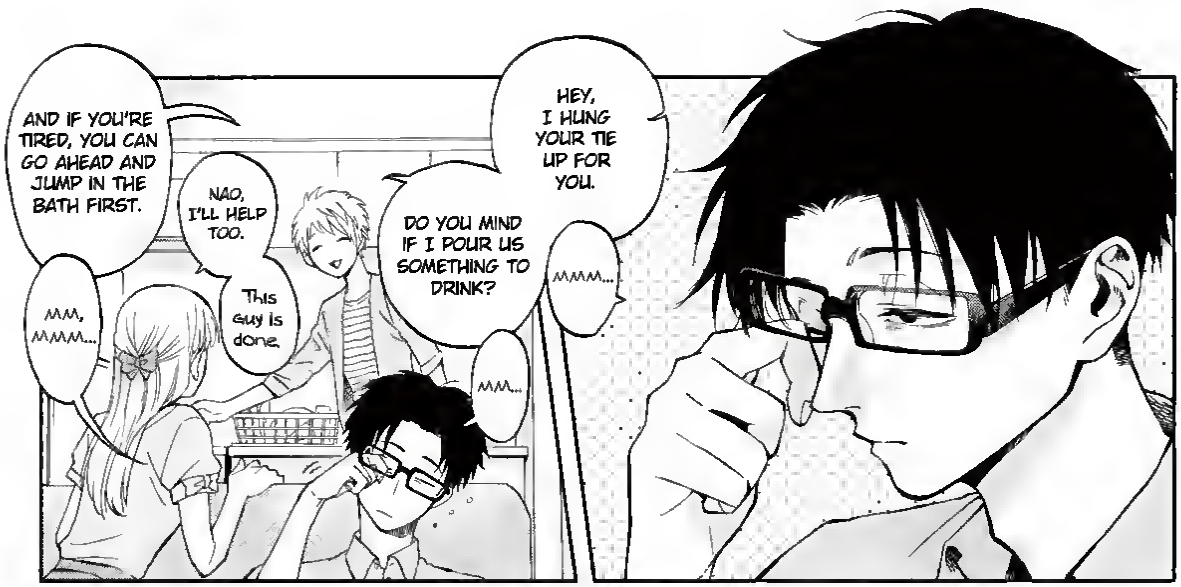
The last panel and grey text are references to the Japanese variety show "It's Okay to Laugh!" ("Waratte Iitomo!"). The show is extremely famous in Japan, having ran from 1982 to 2014(!).
The host, Tamori (Kazuyoshi Morita), holds a Guinness record for most live TV episodes of a variety show hosted by the same presenter.
He would ask guests "Did you cut your hair?" (髪切った?) when he ran out of stuff to talk about, and it became something of a running gag.
Once, near the end of the show's run, the guest asked HIM that question, and everyone was moved to tears (not really). Here's a link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cKEvxZiJr4

The ressurection (or revival) spell entry screen in old DQ



Some cats I guess, Iunno




AND IF YOU'RE TIRED, YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND JUMP IN THE BATH FIRST.
NAO, I'LL HELP TOO.
This guy is done.
MM, MMMM...
DO YOU MIND IF I POUR US SOMETHING TO DRINK?
MMM...
HEY, I HUNG YOUR TIE UP FOR YOU.
MMMM...

YOU STAYED UP ALL NIGHT PLAYING GAMES ON A WEEK NIGHT?
WAIT, DON'T TELL ME...
Your eyes aren't even open
Woow! It's all over
Woah
I JUST DIDN'T REALLY GET ANY SLEEP LAST NIGHT...
NO, IT'S ALL GOOD.
AH...
SORRY ABOUT THIS NIFUJI.
ALL OF US BARGING IN WHEN YOU'RE SO TIRED.

WHAT WAS THAT!?
THE TRYHARDS ARE PRETTY SCARY, YOU KNOW?
STICK TO YOUR ANIMAL CROSSING.
THE SQUID GIRL THAT DOES HER INVADING WITH INK, NOT THE OTHER ONE.
OHH, NICE! I WANT TO PLAY THAT TOO!
ANIMAL CROSSING FOR ME IT IS!
...

YOUR INKLING IS CORRECT!
AT LEAST PRETEND TO HAVE SOME SHAME!!

UM...
SORRY, I DON'T QUITE UNDER-STAND...
DO YOU GO TO THE OCEAN AND FORESTS A LOT FOR WORK OR SOMETHING?
YOU SAY THAT LIKE YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THOSE TRYHARDS YOURSELF.
ISN'T HE, NIFUJI JUNIOR?
HUH? AM I WRONG?
ER, SORRY, I UH...
I DON'T REALLY KNOW ANY OF THE, LIKE, JARGON, OR STUFF THAT MIGHT BE COMMON KNOWLEDGE FOR PEOPLE IN THE WORK FORCE...
THAT'S PRETTY COOL THOUGH! REALLY SOUNDS LIKE WORKPLACE DISCUSSION OR SOMETHING, FEELS VERY "SERIOUS ADULT"!
BLOOD TYPE BLUE! HE'S A NORMAL!

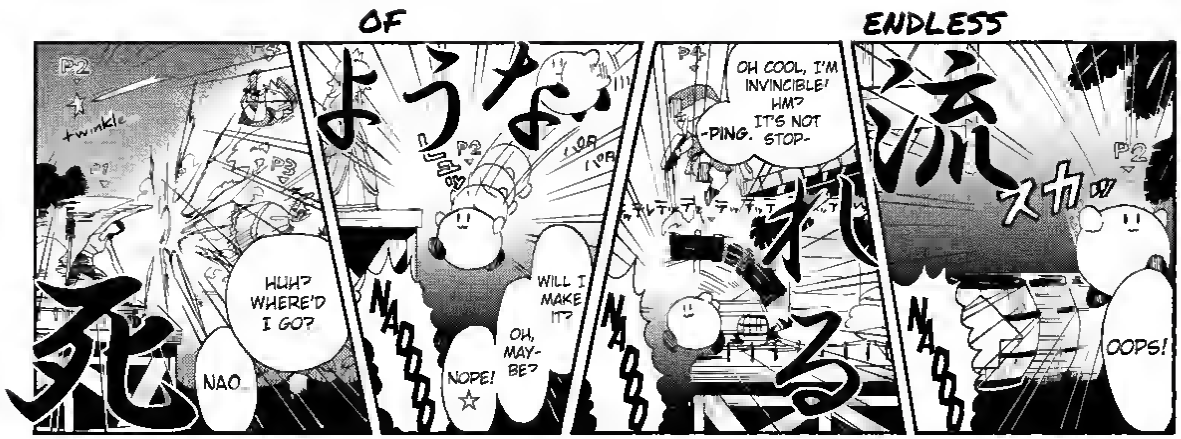
YOU SURE DO LOVE GAMES. ^_^
SO, WHAT SHOULD WE PLAY?
CLACK
SHIT...
I CAN'T BELIEVE I LET MY GUARD DOWN.
NOTHING EVER GETS TO YOU, DOES IT HIROTAKA?
AND WHAT CONVERSATION TOPICS CAN WE USE NOW?
THINK, NARUMI! WHAT HAVE YOU ALREADY SAID? ARE YOU SAFE?

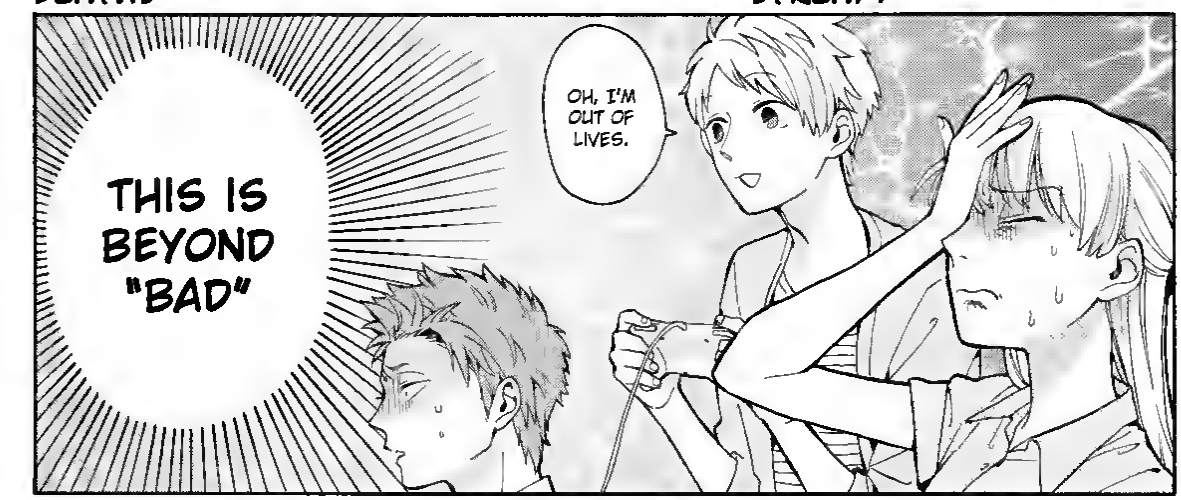
AHH... I'M PRETTY BAD THOUGH.
IT'S A RARE CHANCE TO LET THE BROTHERS TEAM UP.
WHY DON'T WE PLAY TEAMS THEN?
KABAKURA, YOU GET TO USE THE GAMECUBE CONTROLLER.
BUT TRUE, WITH A GAME WE DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT STUFF LIKE AGE OR HOBBIES, SO THAT IS A GOOD CHOICE...
I'LL PROBABLY JUST GET IN HIS WAY, ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY?
THANKS.
IS THAT THE VIP TREATMENT HERE?
I'LL SIT THIS ROUND OUT.
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, PUTTING A CONTROLLER IN HIROTAKA'S HANDS WILL KEEP HIM IN A GOOD MOOD.

HM? WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY, HIROTAKA? "LET YOUR BIG BROTHER COVER FOR YOU"? WOW, WHAT A MODEL BROTHER!
OKAY OKAY, YOU WIN.
WHAT A MODEL BROTHER!
I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING.

YEAH, IT'LL BE FINE! I'M BAD TOO!
COMPARED TO THIS GUY, JUST ABOUT EVERYONE IS BAD.
...OKAY!
SO DON'T SWEAT IT.

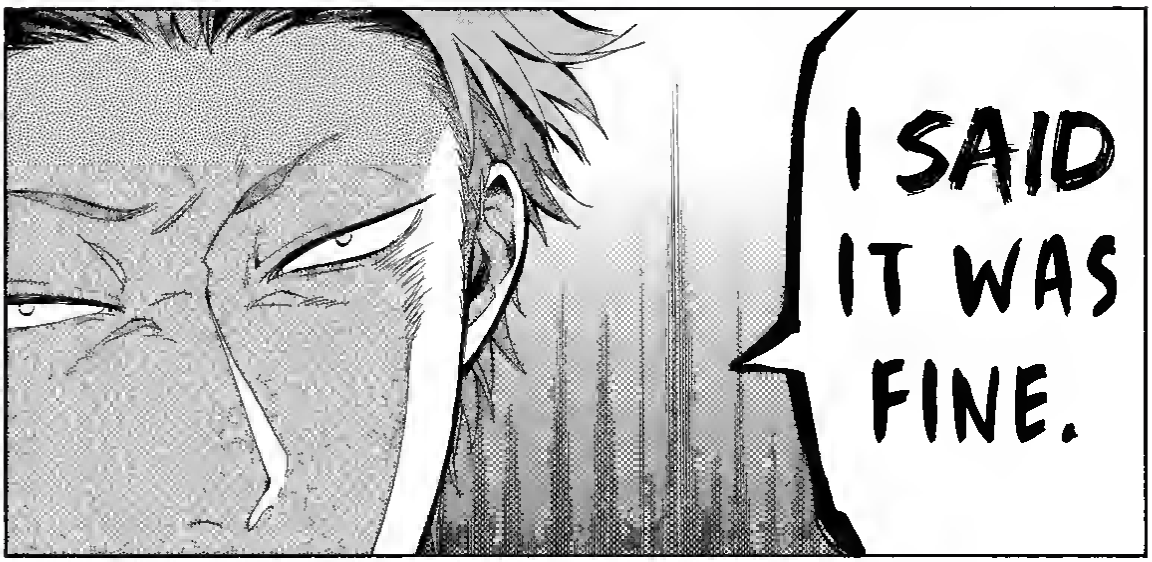
I-IT'S FINE, HE'S JUST TIRED! I THINK!
^▽^ ?
I MEAN JUST LOOK AT THAT FACE HE'S MAKING.
;^_^
NOT HIDING IT

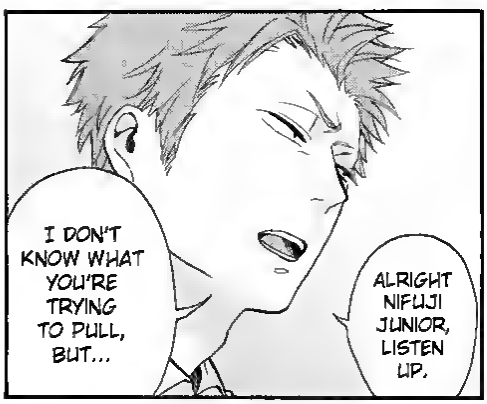




WELL THAT'S GOOD THEN.
whew
NAO, FEEL FREE TO GET MAD AT HIM FOR THAT, OKAY!?
click click click

HEHE, HE LOOKS JUST LIKE A KID WHEN HE'S ASLEEP.
FALLING ASLEEP WITH A CONTROLLER IN HIS HANDS...
...AND HE'S OUT LIKE A LIGHT.
IT'S NO USE.
THERE'S NO WAKING THIS GUY UP ONCE HE FALLS ASLEEP.
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO WITH HIM...
HIROTAKA, C'MON, YOU'RE GOING TO CATCH A COLD IF YOU SLEEP OUT HERE.
NAH,
IT'S FINE, I'LL WALK THEM BOTH BACK.
HUH?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
BUT YOU TWO ARE GOING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION AS ME, AREN'T YOU?
OH, THEN IN THAT CASE I CAN WALK NARUMI BACK.
YOU CAN JUST LEAVE HIM TO ME!
IT'S GETTING LATE, I'LL WALK YOU TO THE TRAIN STATION.

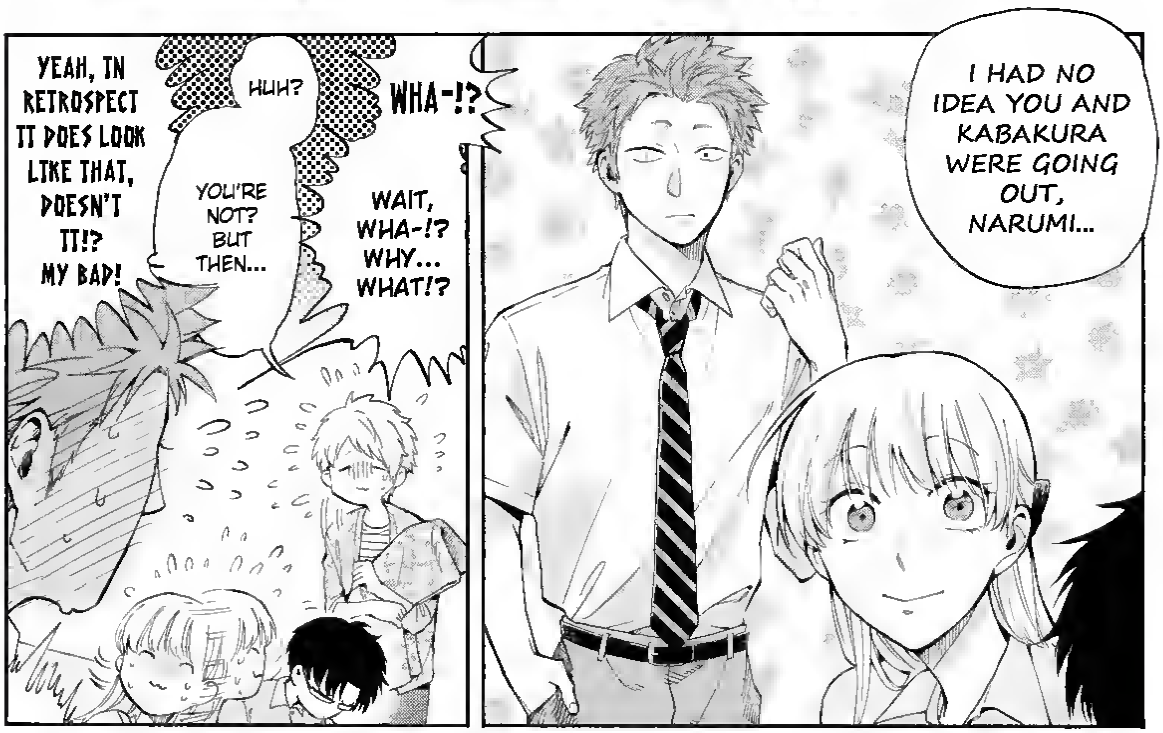

I SAID IT WAS FINE.

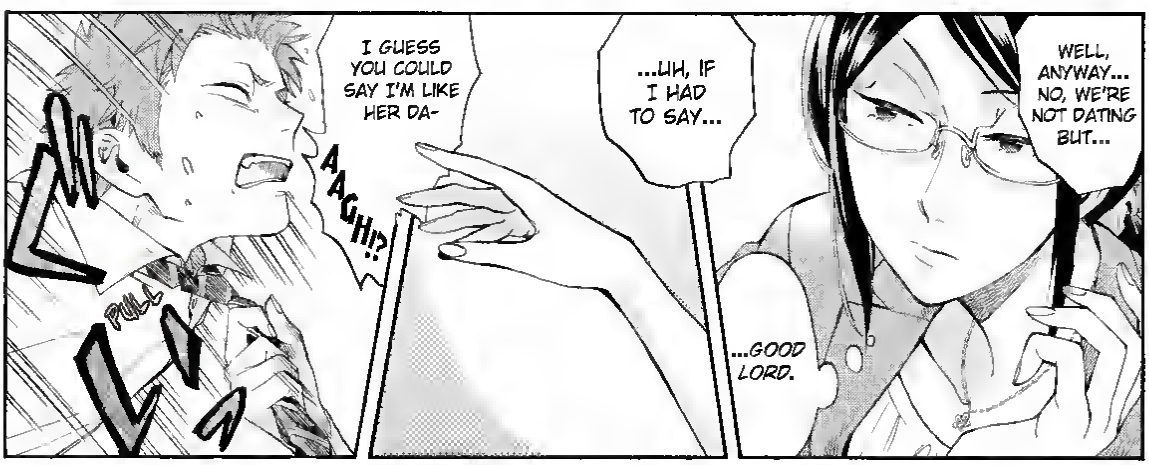

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO PULL, BUT...
ALRIGHT NIFUJI JUNIOR, LISTEN UP.

...AND WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?
...um...
...

...AH...
SO DON'T GO MAKING THINGS COMPLICATED.
SHE ALREADY HAS A BOYFRIEND.

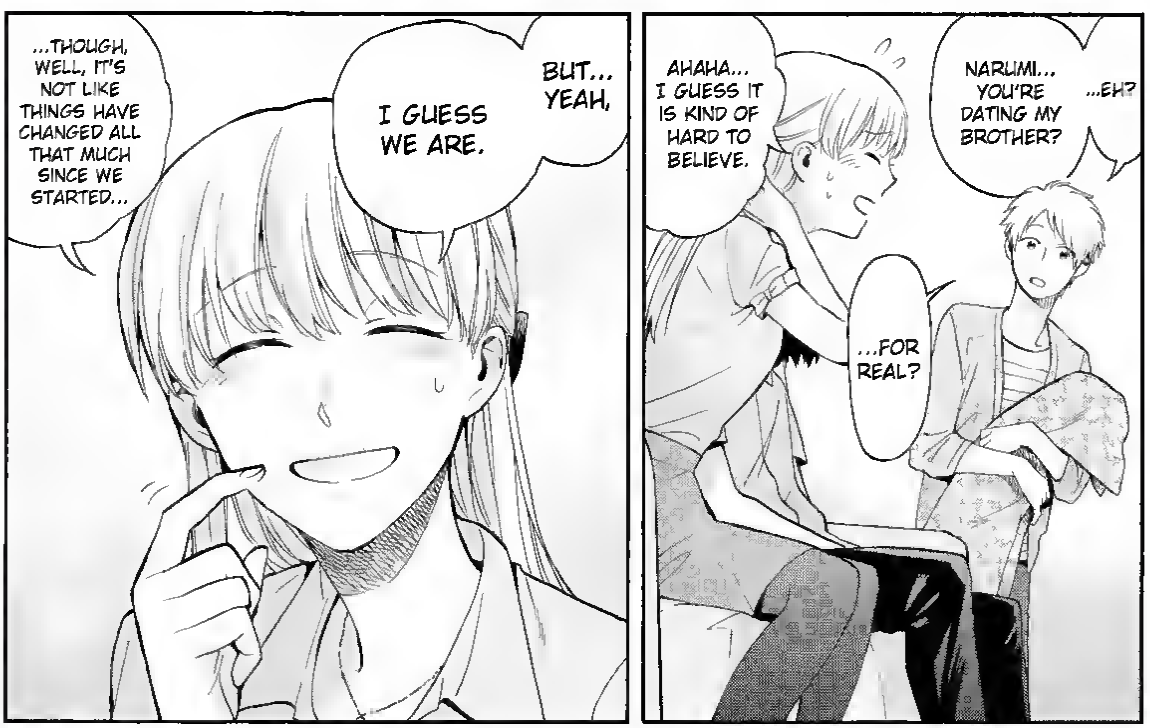
AH, HELL... I JUST HAD TO GO AND STICK MY NOSE WHERE IT DIDN'T BELONG AGAIN.
I GUESS IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU'D HAVE PICKED UP ON JUST FROM WATCHING US TODAY...
AH, WELL...
BOW
I AM SO SORRY! THAT WASN'T MY INTENTION AT ALL!
AND IT DIDN'T OCCUR TO ME AT ALL YOU MIGHT BE DATING
SORRY TO YOU TOO, NARUMI!


I HAD NO IDEA YOU AND KABAKURA WERE GOING OUT, NARUMI...
WHA-!?
HUH?
YOU'RE NOT? BUT THEN...
WAIT, WHA-!? WHY... WHAT!?
YEAH, IN RETROSPECT IT DOES LOOK LIKE THAT, DOESN'T IT!? MY BAD!

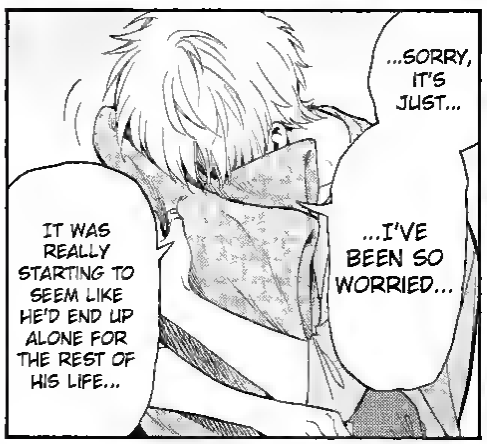

WELL, ANYWAY... NO, WE'RE NOT DATING BUT...
...UH, IF I HAD TO SAY...
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I'M LIKE HER DA-
AAGH!?
PULL
...GOOD LORD.

スリキュウウーウ
MM
WHAT THE H-
DON'T BEAT AROUND THE BUSH.
THAT CLEAR THINGS UP FOR YOU?
...!!!
I CAN USE THAT IN MY BL DOUJINS! BETTER TAKE NOTES!
IN OTHER WORDS,

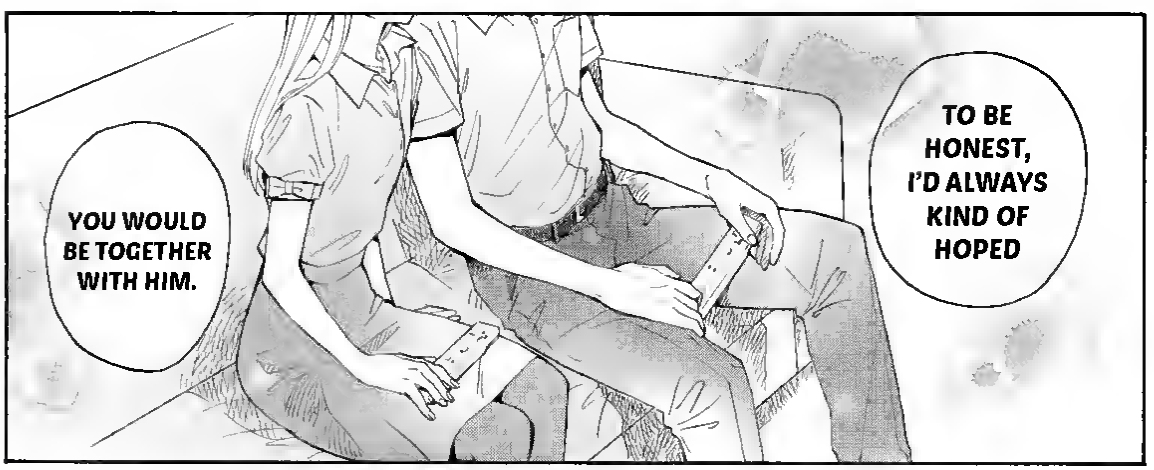
THIS ONE IS MINE,
AND THAT ONE IS HERS.


...THOUGH, WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE THINGS HAVE CHANGED ALL THAT MUCH SINCE WE STARTED...
I GUESS WE ARE.
BUT... YEAH,
AHAHA... I GUESS IT IS KIND OF HARD TO BELIEVE.
NARUMI... YOU'RE DATING MY BROTHER?
...EH?
...FOR REAL?

N-NAO!?
WHA-
WHA-
WHA-
!!?
CHILL
!?
...
I KNEW IT...
THIS GUY HAS A THING FOR...
tear...

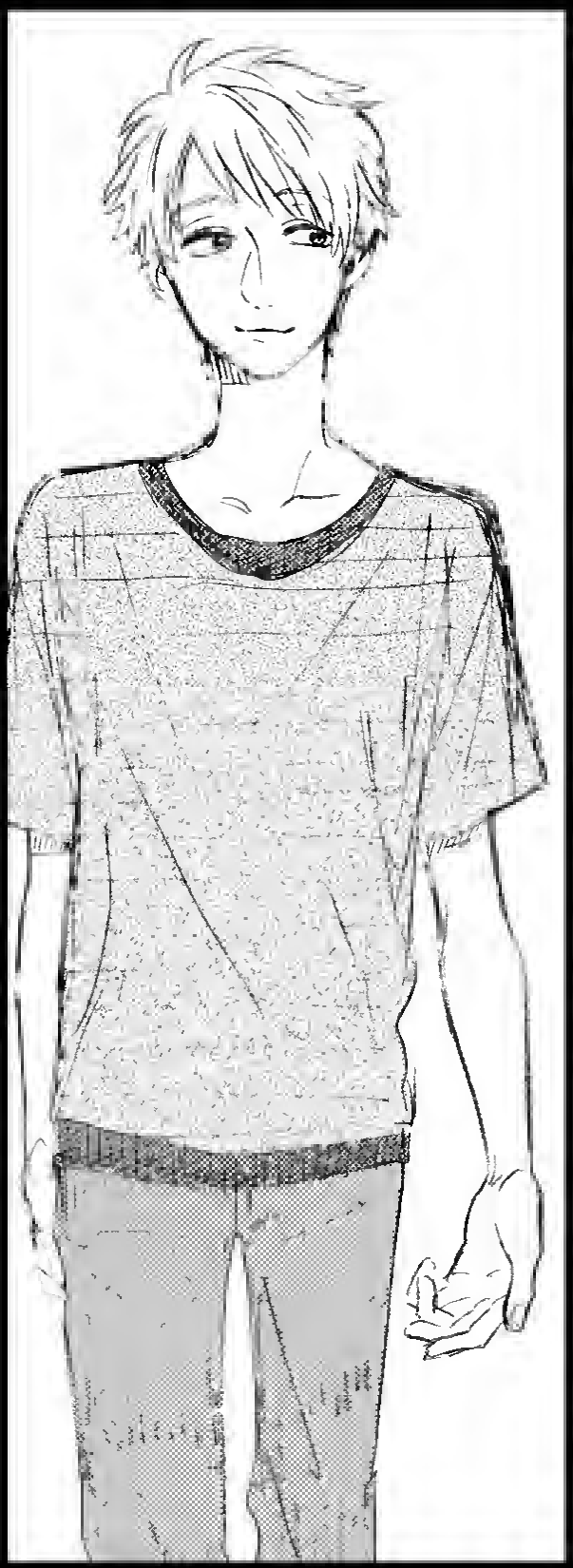

...SORRY, IT'S JUST...
...I'VE BEEN SO WORRIED...
IT WAS REALLY STARTING TO SEEM LIKE HE'D END UP ALONE FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE...

...THANK GOOD-NESS...


TO BE HONEST, I'D ALWAYS KIND OF HOPED
YOU WOULD BE TOGETHER WITH HIM.

IT'S PRETTY EASY TO SCHEDULE STUFF WITH THIS GROUP,
SO LET'S GET TOGETHER FOR SOME GAMES AGAIN SOON!
??
SURE!
NARUMI
THANK YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU, THE DAD?
...

THE NEXT DAY
NIFUJI.
MAKE SURE YOU TREAT THAT BROTHER OF YOURS WELL, OKAY?
he he
HUH?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT NOW?
Ahhh, I need some starbux
AND TEACH HIM HOW TO PLAY SOME DAMN GAMES.
IT'D JUST BE A WASTE OF TIME, SO NO.



Nifuji Naoya

二藤尚哉

Birthday: April 21st
Age: 19
Height: 177 cm
Blood Type: AB
Sign: Taurus

His only real exposure to anime or manga is stuff his friends lend him. Would rather watch someone play a video game than play one himself. Mistakenly believes otaku slang is some sort of industry jargon.

Hirotaka's younger brother by seven years. In stark contrast to his brother, he's bright, outgoing, and competely terrible at games.

He remembers Narumi well, as she visited their house often to play with Hirotaka (and really, was Hirotaka's only friend), and supports their relationship. (Though he should really be worrying more about himself at this point, having never made it past "a good friend".)

He's easy-going and endlessly positive. Just seeing others be happy makes him smile.

Apparently even his older brother has only seen him get serious a handful of times. Though he is very laid back, he does have his shit together. He even checks in on his brother from time to time to make sure he's not neglecting his own health.

Recently he's gotten into making sweets.

I'm not sure what else to say here.

younger brother's hairstyle
older brother's hairstyle

▽Sunday Morning

Only sleeps in one hour later than usual,
but gets thrice the usual bed head.

On waking up...	Wakes up relatively early, but is useless for the first 10 minutes after doing so.
On staying up late...	It makes his entire body exude sleepiness.

Credits!

Author&Artist: Fujita

Notes!

The original squid pun was "ikanimo," meaning basically "indeed" (and "ika" of course is "squid").
The two references are Squid Girl (Ika Musume) and Splatoon.

"Stick to your Animal Crossing" (or "go back to Animal Crossing" etc.) is sort of a meme in the Japanese internet, said to casual players playing more difficult/competetive games. Or said by casual players, as some self-deprecating humor, like "yeah I'll just be over here in the corner playing Animal Crossing, y'all have fun...").

A "tryhard" is someone who gets really involved in the game(s) of their choice and treats them like serious business.

"Blood type blue!" is an Evangelion reference, said when the appearance of an Angel was detected.
The "level 1 battle stations" bit is also an Eva reference.

For those of you "in the know," no, they did not say riajuu (リア充) there, they said hiwota (非ヲタ). Riajuu is the word that is typically translated lately as "normie," and is basically short for "person who leads a fulfilling life outside the internet". Hiwota is more literal and just means a "not-otaku".

The classic gamecube controller is the best possible way to play a Smash Bros. game,
and anyone who tells you otherwise is a dirty liar.

Yes that's Smash Bros., yes it's the Wii version, yes Nao is playing Kirby.
They're playing on the old N64 Donkey Kong stage, one notorious for being a deathtrap
(that barrel)

In case it's not clear, Naoya was talking about Hirotaka being alone/Narumi being with him in a romantic sense...while Narumi was being dense and somehow figured he meant in a more general sense,
hence the "??" and "yeah we can all hang out together again whenever!" bits.

The last grey text is a reference to the old-but-still-popular Japanese meme "yasashii sekai", meaning literally "kind world". It's basically said in response to witnessing some heartwarming act of kindness or when it seems like something terrible will happen but something nice happens instead.
Or just something extremely peaceful.

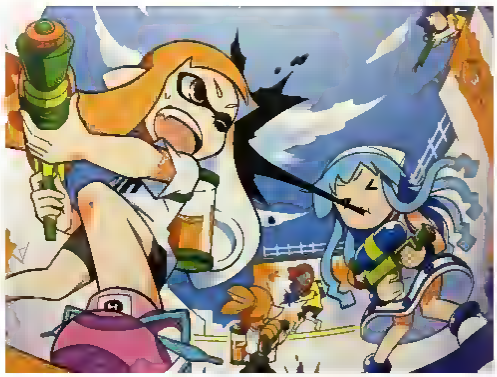
It comes from a vocaloid type song (because of course it does) titled "Yasashii Sekai". The lyrics of the song are taken directly from the...mission statement(?) of a Japanese law firm, that goes something like:
"When I was a teenager, my younger brother was pressured by some bad people and ended up killing himself without ever going to anyone for help. Let's build a kinder society and never let this sort of thing happen again." (*extremely* paraphrased)
I guess it resonated, because it turned into a meme that still gets used all the time today.

Link to the Yasashii Sekai song,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4OZbxzyznO

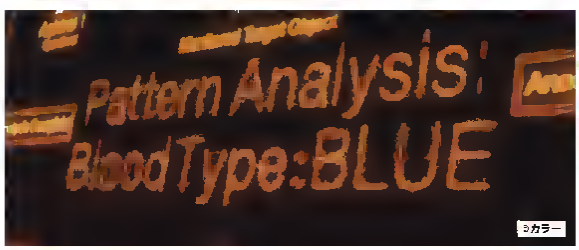
It was made using Orpheus.

Squid girl and Splatoon collaboration

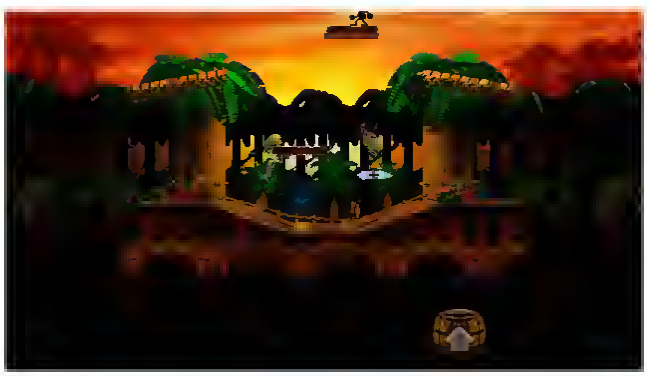


APPARENTLY SQUID GIRL MANGA IS ENDING SOON :(

probably from like the show or movie, I dunno



that barrel



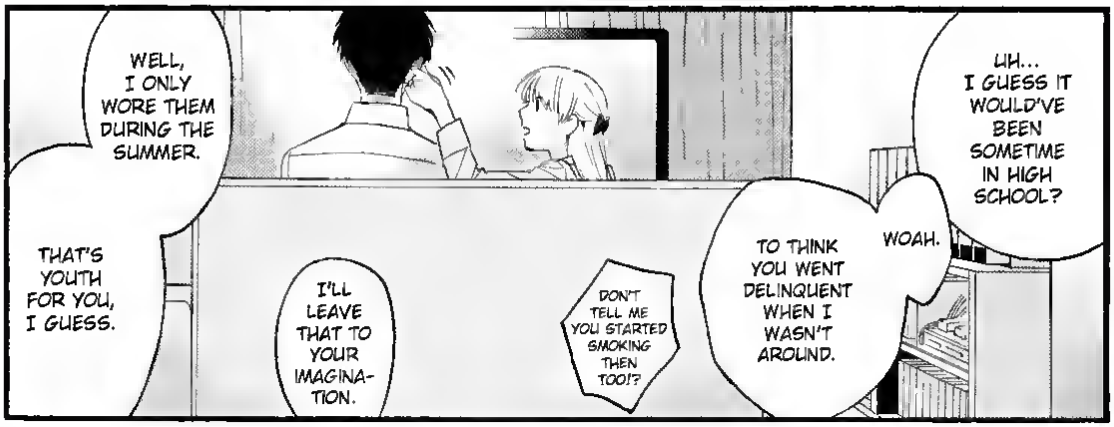
Animal Crossing is "Doubutsu no mori" (Animals' Forest) in Japanese

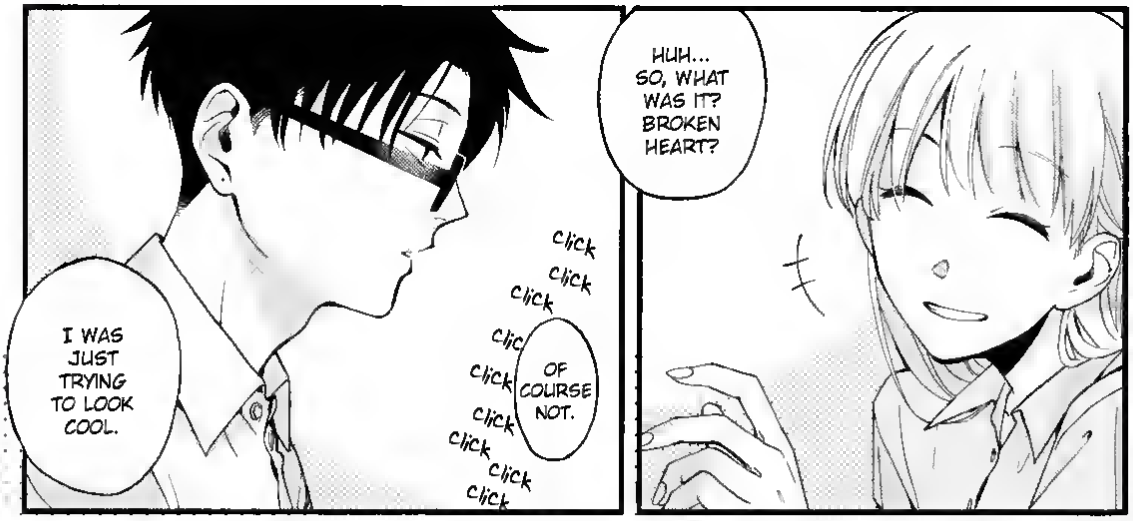
The One True Way to play smash bros

?
I'M ONLY GOING TO DO THIS ONCE.
SO WATCH CLOSELY.
'KAY.
NAO.
UH HUH?
WHA-
WHAAT!?
WAAIT!
I TOLD YOU I'D ONLY DO IT ONCE.
SEE YOU.
ONE MORE TIME!
DO IT ONE MORE TIME!
AND HE REALLY NEVER DID IT EVER AGAIN.

I WANT
TO KISS KABA-KURA.
MAYBE SHE'S HOLDING BACK BECAUSE SHE'S AT SOMEONE ELSE'S HOUSE?
SHE'S MAKING A "I NEED TO TAKE A SHIT" FACE...
I WANT TO SUCK ON THOSE THIN LIPS AND (CENSORED)
KOYA-NAGI...
HEY...
CAN I?
SURE,
GO AHEAD!

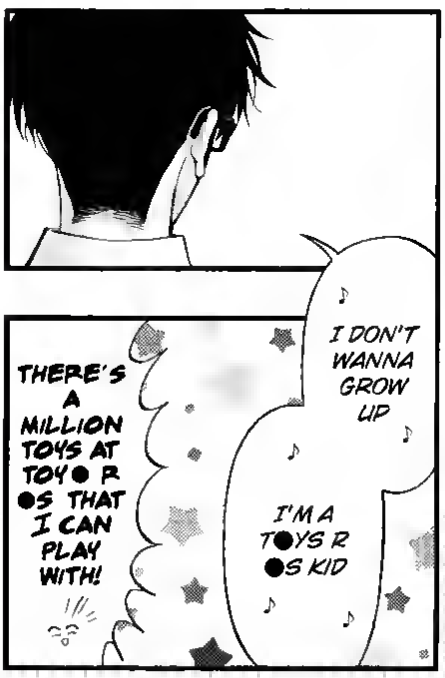
The reason for the holes ①

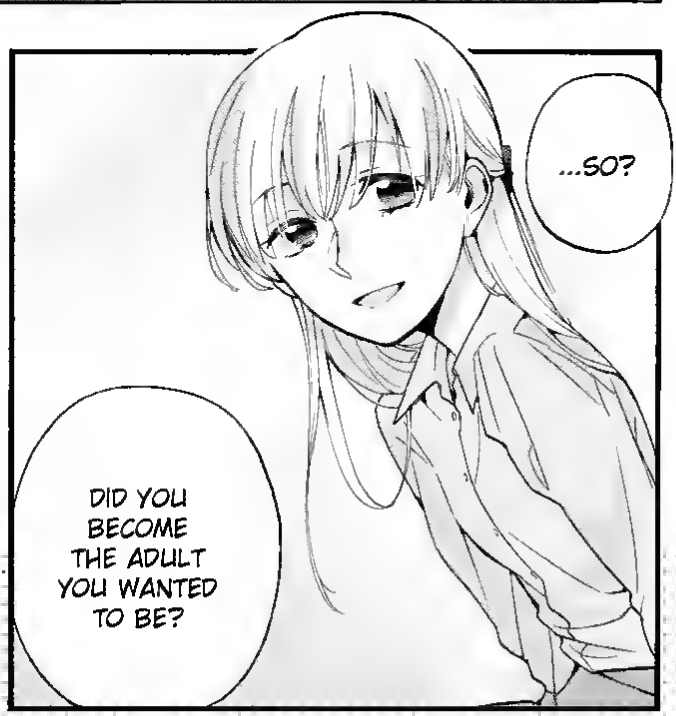

UH... I GUESS IT WOULD'VE BEEN SOMETIME IN HIGH SCHOOL?
WOAH.
TO THINK YOU WENT DELINQUENT WHEN I WASN'T AROUND.
DON'T TELL ME YOU STARTED SMOKING THEN TOO!?
I'LL LEAVE THAT TO YOUR IMAGINA-TION.
WELL, I ONLY WORE THEM DURING THE SUMMER.
THAT'S YOUTH FOR YOU, I GUESS.


HUH... SO, WHAT WAS IT? BROKEN HEART?
OF COURSE NOT.
click click click click click click click click
I WAS JUST TRYING TO LOOK COOL.

"THE FASTEST WAY TO BECOMING AN ADULT...
...IS PRETENDING TO ACT LIKE ONE."
THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING AT THE TIME, ANYWAY.
...HMM.

I GUESS THAT IS KIND OF LIKE YOU.
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN KIND OF...IMPATIENT? CHILDISH? ABOUT THAT SORT OF THING.
TO BE FAIR, I WAS LITERALLY A CHILD AT THE TIME.
STILL, I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU OF ALL PEOPLE.
AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?


♪ I DON'T WANNA GROW UP ♪
♪ I'M A T●YS R ●S KID ♪ ♪
THERE'S A MILLION TOYS AT TOY● R ●S THAT I CAN PLAY WITH!


...SO?
DID YOU BECOME THE ADULT YOU WANTED TO BE?

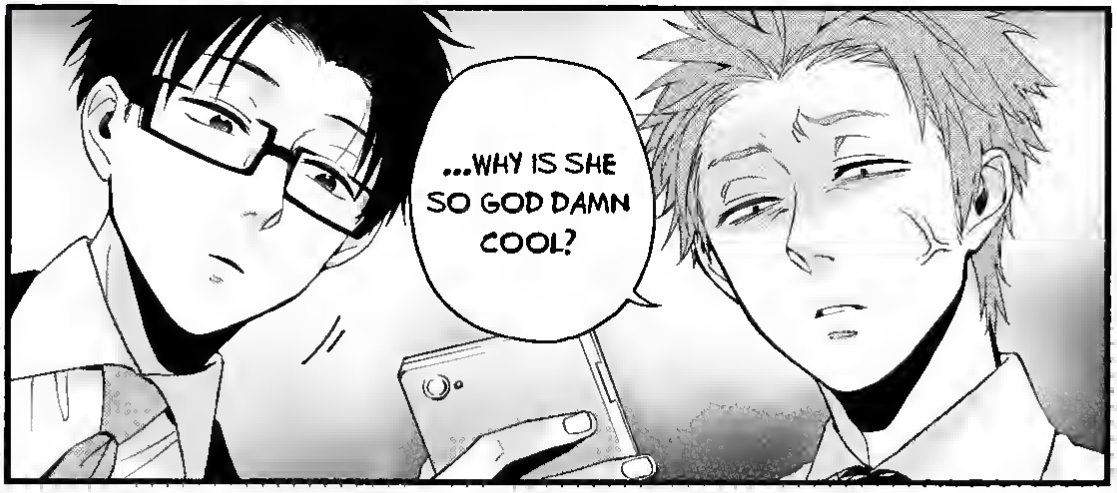
...
(saved)
OH, THAT'S CUTE.

On a date w/ Naru♪
Here, I'll share her with you a little ^^

...
(saved)
OH. THAT'S... CUTE...

And then there was this

Photo ②



WHAT THE HELL DID YOU JUST SAY?
Y'KNOW, I'M PRETTY CONFIDENT I CAN MAKE MY KABAKURA AT LEAST AS CUTE AS YOUR HIROTAKA.
BECAUSE ALL I HEARD WAS "I'M A LUNATIC."

I REALLY WAS QUITE CUTE, YOU KNOW?
EXCUSE ME, BUT...
heh
I AM NOT DOING THIS!!
STOP!! DON'T GET HER FIRED UP OVER IT!!

HELLO!? CAN YOU NOT HEAR ME!? SHOULD I YELL EVEN LOUDER!?
smirk
YOU THINK SO...?
THEN HOW ABOUT I SHOW YOU THE TRUE POWER...
...OF A REAL COSPLAYER'S TECHNIQUE?

And it has a price tag
CONVINCING (BUYING) THE MODEL, PROCURING A FLUFFY WIG TO HELP HIDE HIS BONE STRUCTURE, BUYING NEW EYE SHADOW, TURNING THE ROOM INTO A STUDIO, SETTING THE CAMERA, ADJUSTING THE LIGHTING, PUTTING IN COLOR CONTACTS (NO FAKE EYELASHES THIS TIME), AND PLAYING WITH THE IMAGE QUALITY AFTER SHOOTING...
ALL DONE IN ONE NIGHT!
FWAHAHA!
WOAH, THIS LOOKS LIKE A VIDEO GAME CHARACTER...!
!!?
A YUUDACHI KAI NI SCALE FIGURE.
WHAT WAS YOUR PRICE?
I MAY MURDER YOU DEPENDING ON WHAT IT IS, BUT SURE GO AHEAD.
...KABAKURA. CAN I ASK JUST ONE THING?
SEE?
IT TURNS INTO A MONSTER IF YOU TAKE THE WIG OFF THOUGH
PFF!!!

You're not hiding that laugh very well...
L-Lookin' pretty cute there, Kasakura...

Credits!!!

Artist&Author: Fujita

NOOOtes:

Yeah they sing that Toys R Us song from the 80s-90s. They have it in Japan too, though the lyrics there were a little different, namely instead of "there's a million toys at toys r us that I can play with" it's more like "i wanna be surrounded by my favorite toys".

English 80s version: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJJ-ZLdrTwY

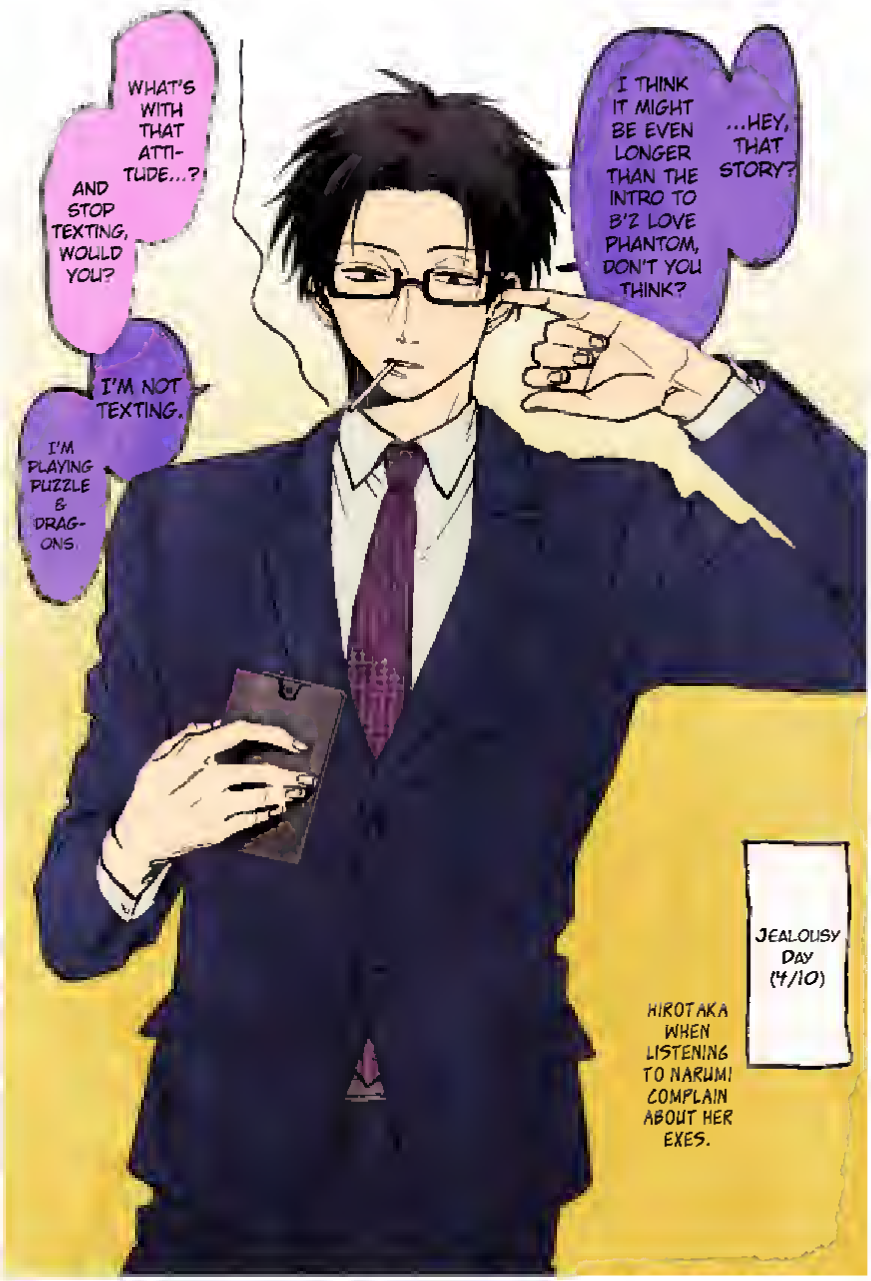
English 90s version: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vUEKQQm-rY

Japanese version: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GJ8tlisbQ8

Yuudachi is some Kancolle thing, ugh.
Have some dignity, Kabakura!

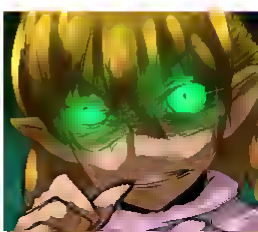
This is the specific figure I think he is referring to, it's 1/8th scale. Uhg.

Notes were short this time, have a thing I pulled off Fujita's pixiv


WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTI-TUDE...?
AND STOP TEXTING, WOULD YOU?
I'M NOT TEXTING.
I'M PLAYING PUZZLE & DRAG-ONS.
I THINK IT MIGHT BE EVEN LONGER THAN THE INTRO TO B'Z LOVE PHANTOM, DON'T YOU THINK?
...HEY, THAT STORY?
JEALOUSY DAY (4/10)
HIROTAKA WHEN LISTENING TO NARUMI COMPLAIN ABOUT HER EXES.

Jealousy Day isn't a "real" day, it's just one of many silly pun days that pop up on social media (certain pronounciations of 4 and 10 together sound like the word for jealousy)
I think this one originated with Parsee from Touhou, but I could be wrong

B'z is a Japanese band, and "Love Phantom" is a song of theirs with a notoriously long intro
You can find the song here
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NbU_OrOl3o



FSSHHH
UH OH.
WOW, LOOK AT THIS RAIN.
MUST BE BECAUSE YOU FINISHED WORK ON TIME TODAY FOR ONCE.
HM? THEM'S FIGHTIN' WORDS, BUDDY.
FSSHHHHHHHHHH...
HIRO-TAKA~
GLANCE...
IT LOOKS LIKE I FORGOT MY UMBRELLA. SO...
WHAT A COINCIDENCE
SAME.
HAAAAAH
OH, HEY.
WELP, NOW WHAT DO?
FSSHHH...
ME~LT ♪
SO MUCH FOR "THE SOUND OF FALLING IN LOVE."

GLUTCH
MY 3DS IDEA PAD WOULD GET WET. SO NO CAN DO.
AH, MAKES SENSE!
GLUTCH
CAN'T YOU JUST RUN DOWN TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE AND BUY ONE?
YOU BOTH FORGOT YOUR UMBRELLA!?
SOZ.
CHRIST, YOU'RE UPPOSED TO BE DULTS...
REALLY?
BUT THEN WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
...OKAY, FINE.
HERE, USE MINE.
SPLISH
SPLISH
SPLISH
I MIGHT MELT AFTER ALL.
HECK, I WANTED TO STOP BY THE STORE TO PICK UP SOME EVA LOTTO TICKETS ANYWAY.
I'M NOT CARRYING ANYTHING THAT CAN'T GET A LITTLE WET.
STEP

HUH?
I'D FEEL BAD IF HE ENDED UP CATCHING A COLD OR SOMETHING...
I HOPE KABAKURA IS OKAY THOUGH,
FSHHHHH...
YEP.
I GUESS THINGS WORKED OUT, HUH?
SP-SPLASH
...IS HE EVEN CAPABLE OF CATCHING A COLD?
I CAN'T REALLY IMAGINE HIM GETTING SICK.
LIFT
SWITCH
SPLASH
...AH!
THAT WAS SMOOTH TOO!
OHH... THAT WAS SMOOTH...

▼Extra
HUH? OH... ...I FORGOT IT.
WAIT, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR UMBRELLA!?
HUH!? KABA-KURA?
slip
YO, KOYA-NAGI!
LET ME UNDER YOUR UMBRELLA UNTIL THE CONVENIENCE STORE, WOULD YOU?
UGH, THE WATER'S STARTING TO SEEP THROUGH MY SHOES...
RAINY DAYS SUCK.
splish splish splish
ALRIGHT, I'LL WALK YOU HOME AND WE CAN HAVE DINNER AT YOUR PLACE!
YOU MEN CAN BE SO STUPID ABOUT THESE THINGS!
JESUS, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE AN ADULT!
HERE, HOLD THIS!
wipe
I swear.
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO IF YOU GET SICK!?
THEN YOU SHOULD'VE CALLED ME!
OH, IN THAT CASE I SHOULD STOP BY MY PLACE FIRST
...YOU WANNA JUST STAY THE NIGHT?
OOF...
...WHAT DO YOU WANNA EAT?
MEAT!
...THOSE LOTTO TICKETS CAN WAIT A DAY.
RAINY DAYS OWN.

Wotaku ni koi ha Muzukashii.....

Can I take this thing off already?!
Hanako's Wig

Credits!

Author & Artist: Fujita

Notes!

The very first bubble is in reference to a saying that basically means "it rains when unusual things happen." (Snow is interchangeable with rain there.) Most commonly brought up when something unusual happens (often when someone does something uncharacteristic), and someone says "wow maybe it'll rain now too, crazy" or something like that.

Apparently the origin of this comes from yet another saying: if it rains even when there are no/few clouds visible (a rare event), it's said that it is becuase a kitsune* wedding being held (the kitsune make it rain so humans will stay inside and not see the wedding procession).
*kitsune being those foxes that are often considered to be supernatural/have special powers

The "so much for 'the sound of falling in love'" line is a reference to Supercell/Hatsune Miku song "Melt" (メルト), in which the singer hears "the sound of falling in love" when the object of their affections lets them under their umbrella when it was raining.

Walking together under an umbrella is considered
a stereotypically romantic/"couples" thing to do in Japan.

You can listen to the song here if you feel so inclined, I guess:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rFBkHb8CL8

The "soz" was them using a slangy/often-not-actually-apologetic way of saying sorry.

The "idea pad" is that notebook she writes down her ideas for her doujin in.

The "lotto tickets" here (ichiban kuji; 一番くじ) are little (fancy) pieces of paper you draw out of a box, usually at a convenience store, and hopefully win a prize. Usually they cost around 500 yen (~5 USD), give or take a few bux. These mini-lottos are very common marketing/fund-raising schemes for various anime franchises, with figures being the primary prize (maybe stuff like keychains as lower tier prizes as well).

Basically every single show with any serious popularity has done one at some point, and big ones with devoted fans like Evangelion, those dumb idol shows (yeah I said it), etc. do them fairly frequently. They'll often do partnerships with a particular convenience store chain like Lawson/Family Mart/Seven Eleven to run them. For example Family Mart is officially partnered with Vocaloid, so they do Vocaloid promotions a lot.

In case it wasn't clear:
Hirotaka smooth moment #1: switching sides so that he was in between Narumi and road
Hirotaka "smooth" moment #2: Switching which shoulder his bag was on so it wouldn't get wet in his new position

The "can't imagine him getting sick" thing is (probably) a halfway dig at Kabakura;
it's a common saying in Japan that dumb people don't get colds
(the actual idea being that they really do, they're just too dumb to realize it)

The "oof" after the "MEAT" line is because meat (which generally refers specifically to beef or pork) is pretty pricey in Japan, and not something most people have for dinner that often.
(random tidbit: Japan has a 38.5% tariff on United States beef, and a 27.5% tariff on Australian beef, the two countries that are the vast majority of beef imports for Japan. The Australian rate is set to drop to 19% by 2031, and the US rate will drop to 27.5% (and then 9% over 16 years) if the TPP is ratified. The more you know!)

Most people in Japan do not commute by car, so there is a lot of walking/biking under the elements. And with the relatively high frequency of sudden rain showers, it's generally drilled into people's heads from a young age to always check the forecast and have an umbrella with you if there's a chance of rain.

These are the two figures that were the prizes during a recent lotto event, for the Eva 20th anniversary

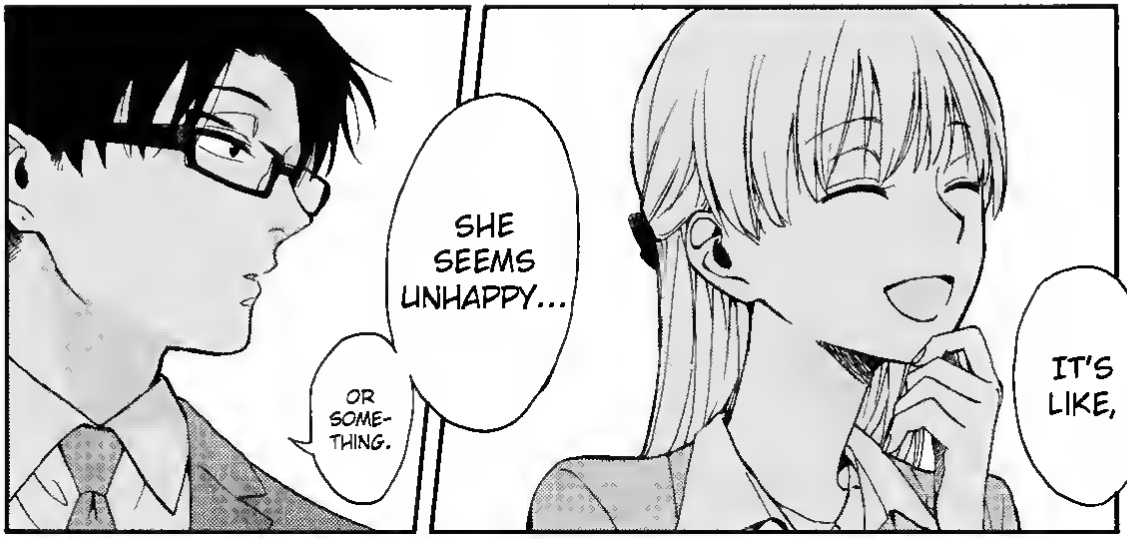
(Yeah it's over 20 years old now. I'd say that makes me feel old, but the fact that that probably **doesn't** make some of you feel old is what *really* makes me feel old)

An illustration of the kitsune wedding thing

An example of Family Mart/Vocaloid crossover lotto-for-figures thing

Episode…9

?
HEY,
DO EITHER OF YOU KNOW WHAT'S UP WITH HER?
NARU? NO, IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG?
SHE'S IN STEALTH MODE RIGHT NOW, YES, BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
SHE WAS FINE THIS MORNING.
The Usual Lady Narumi
I saw this cute gay couple at the station!
Hey Hiro-taka, check this out!
WELL YEAH, 'CAUSE SHE'S WORKING.
SHE JUST DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HER USUAL SELF.

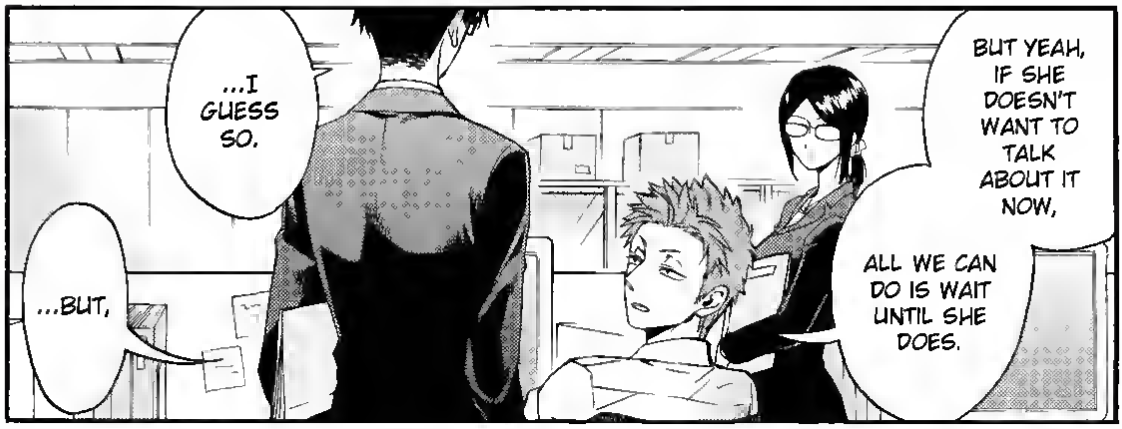

SHE SEEMS UNHAPPY...
OR SOME-THING.
IT'S LIKE,

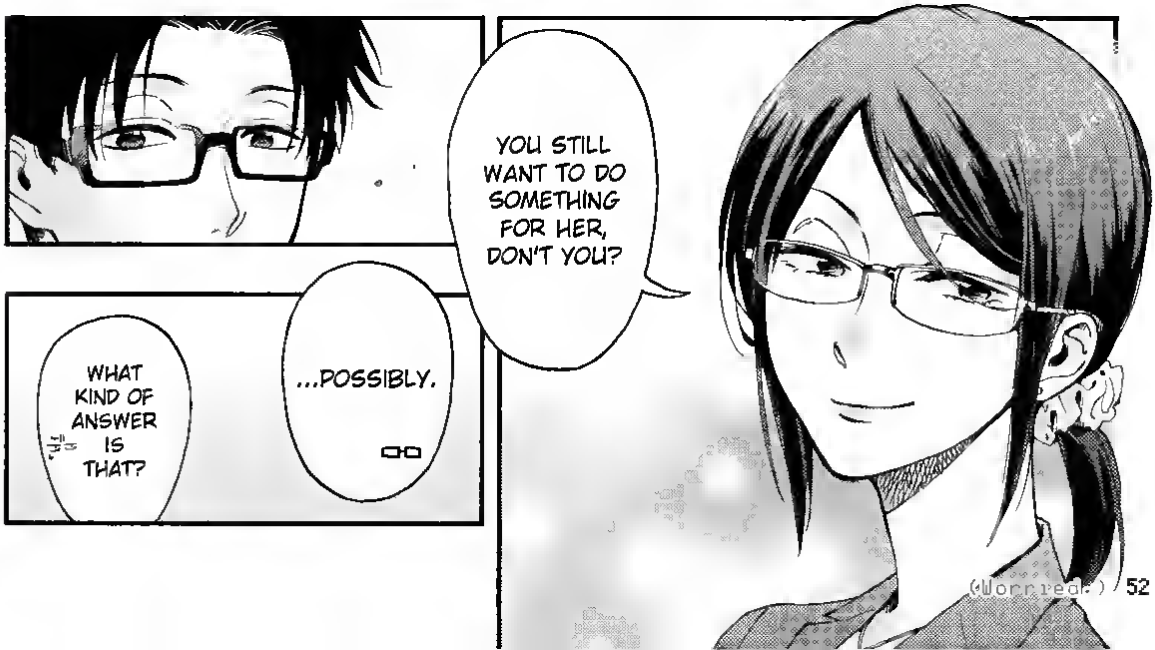
YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT IMAGINING THINGS?
creeek
...UPBEAT SELF, TO MY EYES ANYWAY.
SHE SEEMS LIKE HER USUAL CU-
YOU THINK SO?
AHEM!

YEAH, SHE HASN'T TWEETED AT ALL SINCE LUNCH.
SEE?
OH. WOW, YOU'RE RIGHT.

YES, I'M SURE.

I DID TRY THAT, BUT...
BUT IF YOU'RE WORRIED, JUST GO ASK HER YOURSELF.
SO I SORT OF FEEL LIKE I SHOULDN'T ASK ANY FURTHER.
WHAT, NO~ NOTHING WRONG AT ALL!
...SHE SAID.
WAS THAT REALLY YOUR MOMOSE IMPRESSION JUST NOW?

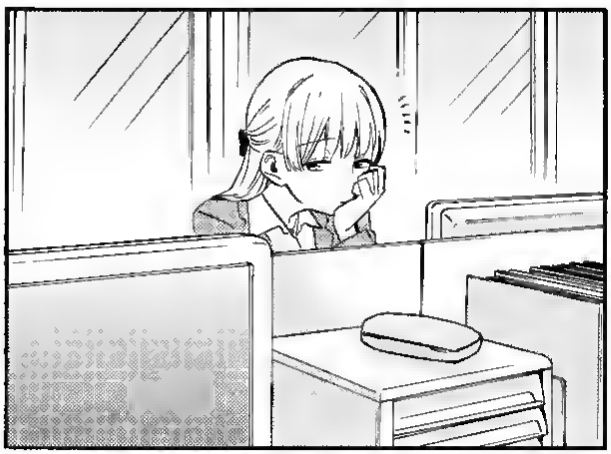

BUT YEAH, IF SHE DOESN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT NOW,
ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT UNTIL SHE DOES.
...I GUESS SO.
...BUT,


YOU STILL WANT TO DO SOMETHING FOR HER, DON'T YOU?
...POSSIBLY.
WHAT KIND OF ANSWER IS THAT?

COME ON NIFUJI, YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE WHAT COULD HELP CHEER HER UP. RIGHT?
ALRIGHT THEN!
THE BEST THING FOR WHEN YOU'RE FEELING DOWN IS TO DO SOMETHING FUN AND LAUGH YOUR PROBLEMS AWAY.

 (Clearly the right answer.)

BEING THE SEME REALLY ISN'T MY THING...
OH, THEN I'LL HAVE TO DECLINE.
saving photos
ACTUALLY, THINKING ABOUT IT, THIS IS NOT QUITE WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR...
WHY IS *THAT* WHERE YOU DRAW THE LINE!?
WAIT, WHY DOES IT SOUND LIKE I JUST GOT REJECTED!?
NARU SAID SHE PREFERRED HIRO X KABA, SO THIS PROBABLY WON'T DO IT...
YEAH, OBVIOUSLY.
WH-

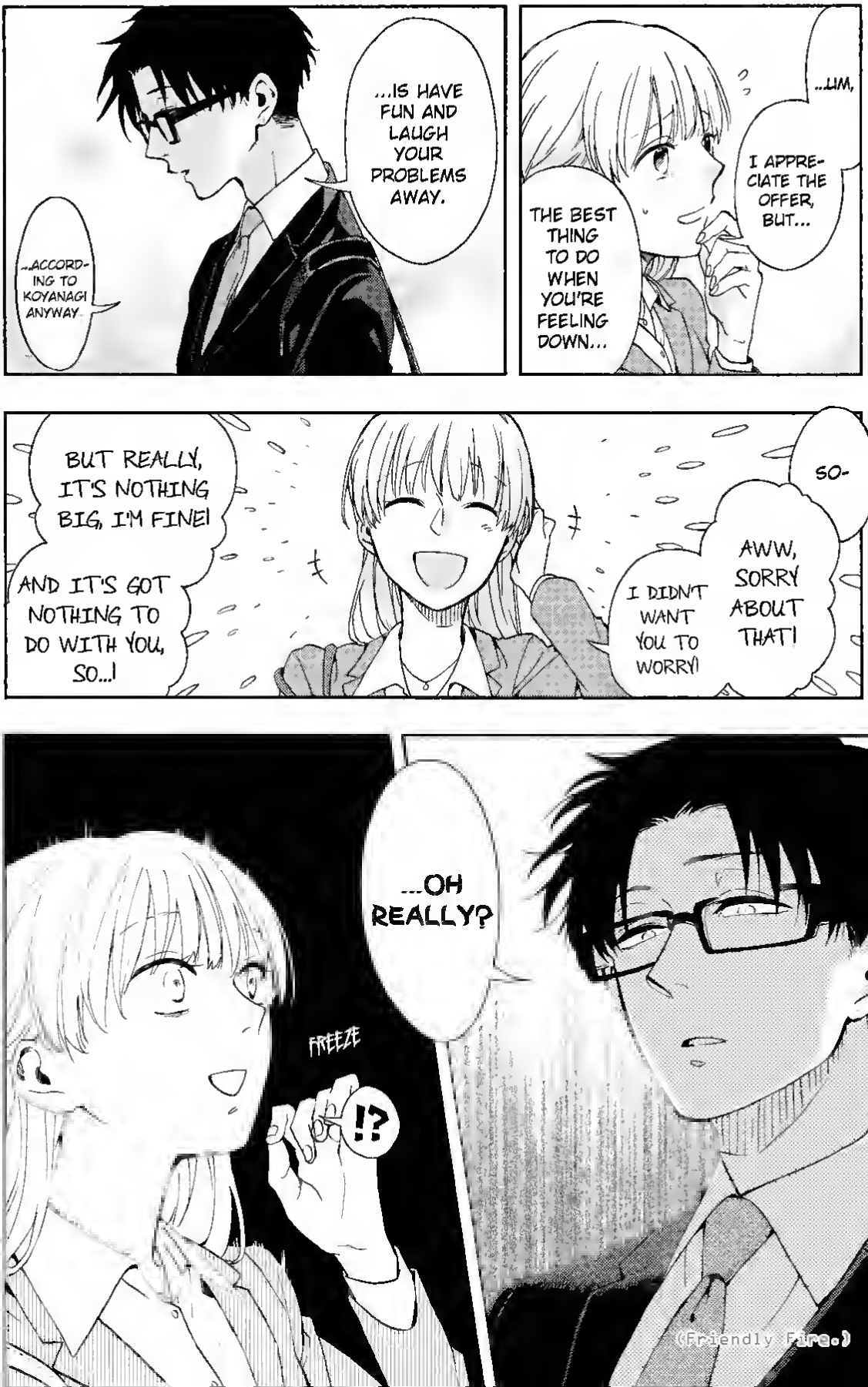


...TALK TO ME...

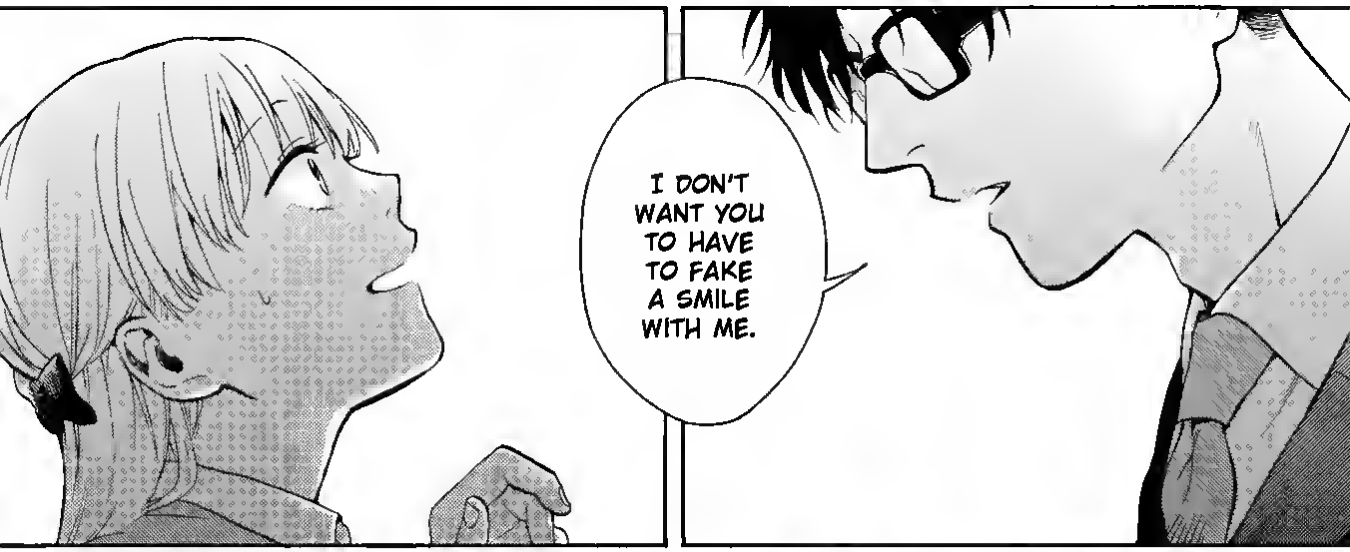
HUH?
LET'S GO FOR DRINKS.
KABAKURA AND KOYANAGI WENT ON AHEAD TO GRAB US SEATS.
WAIT, HANG ON A SEC-
AND AS A LIMITED TIME OFFER, IT'LL EVEN BE ON ME.
HRNG!

OH, WHAT'S THIS?
WHAT IS 'MISTER FIVE O'CLOCK' STILL DOING HERE AT THIS HOUR?

BOSS
...LYING IN WAIT.
HUH?


...IS HAVE FUN AND LAUGH YOUR PROBLEMS AWAY.
...ACCORDING TO KOYANAGI ANYWAY
...UM,
I APPRECIATE THE OFFER, BUT...
THE BEST THING TO DO WHEN YOU'RE FEELING DOWN...
BUT REALLY, IT'S NOTHING BIG, I'M FINE!
AND IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, SO...!
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO WORRY!
AWW, SORRY ABOUT THAT!
SO-
FREEZE
!?
...OH REALLY?

NO, NO THAT'S NOT HOW I MEANT IT...
I SHOULD IGNORE IT BECAUSE IT'S GOT "NOTHING TO DO WITH ME?
?
?
YOU "DIDN'T WANT ME TO WORRY?"
IT'S "NOTHING BIG"?


I DON'T WANT YOU TO HAVE TO FAKE A SMILE WITH ME.

DIDN'T WANT TO BOTHER YOU WITH MY PROBLEMS...
...SORRY.
...I JUST...

BUT, AT LEAST WHEN YOU'RE WITH ME...
...UH, I MEAN, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE CLOSE...
.....
?
NARUMI, I THINK THAT PART OF YOU...
IS REALLY ADMIRABLE.
...AM I
...THAT UNRELIABLE?
WAIT, WERE YOU JUST SAD I WASN'T RELYING ON YOU?
...WHAT NOW?
You mean you weren't mad?
Of course I wasn't mad

YOU PROMISE YOU WON'T LAUGH?
I WON'T.
YOU WON'T BE GROSSED OUT OR GET MAD?
I WON'T.

...WHAT?

HER WAIFU IN IN ONE OF THE MANGA SHE LIKED DIED?
THAT'S IT?

AND THEN THEY JUST DIED!! WITHOUT EVEN SO MUCH AS SOME FORE-SHADOWING!!
IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT FROM THEIR FIRST APPEARANCE!
THIS WEEK'S CHAPTER WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ALL ABOUT THEM, SO I WAS ALL EXCITED AND WENT DOWN TO READ IT AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE DURING LUNCH...

YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND ANY-THING!
YEAH JUST KEEP LAUGHING, YOU LITTLE SHIT!
THIS IS WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU!
IT'S 'CAUSE OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU THAT...
EVERY-THING IS JUST SO DUMB lalalalal lalalal lalal lal lalalalal lalalal IT LOOPED BACK AROUND AND...
WOW lalalalalal WE ARE lalalalalal BOTH lalalalalal SUCH IDIOTS lalalalal
NO... IT'S JUST...
GODDAMMIT, SEE!? YOU GOT GROSSED OUT, YOU GOT MAD, AND YOU'RE LAUGHING!! YOU DID ALL THREE!!
WHY THE FUCK ARE YOU LAUGHING, HIROTAKA!?
YOU'LL HEAR FROM MY LAWYERS!
THIS IS A VIOLATION OF CONTRACT!
.....
.....
.....
↑He reads the volumes, not the magazines
KABAKURA? WHAT'S WRONG?
WELL, AT LEAST IT WASN'T ANYTHING SERIOUS, RIGHT KABAKURA?

Wotaku ni koi ha Muzukashii.....

▶SMILE COMPARISONS

▼ The type to open his mouth when smiling
(Also tends to clop when loughing; it's loud)

▼ The type thot shows her teeth when smiling
(Also tends to snort when loughing)

▼ The type who leorned to smile from o certoin someone
(It tends quickly go bock to his usuol emotionless foce)

▼ The type to lough through her nose
(Or os the kids soy it these doys, "spew snot")

Credits:

Author and Artist: Fujita

Notes:

Narumi please don't sneak phone pictures of people, even if they are cute and/or gay.

In yaoi/BL terminology, couples are written Name x Name, with the first name being the "seme" (attacker) and the second name being the "uke" (defender).
I figured I should explain that, as the odds of you being exposed to such a thing must be extremely low if you're reading this manga
this is sarcasm

Hirotaka tends to leave on time, which is an extremely rare thing for an office worker in Japan, hence the nickname. (It's actually possible their official quitting time is not 5pm, but instead 5:30 or 6pm, as a fair number of employers don't count lunch breaks as working time. But I don't care.)

Waifu is a gender neutral term.
(Or at least the Japanese slang term it comes from and that was used here,
嫁 (yome, originally meaning "bride/wife"),
can refer to male/female/whatever characters.)

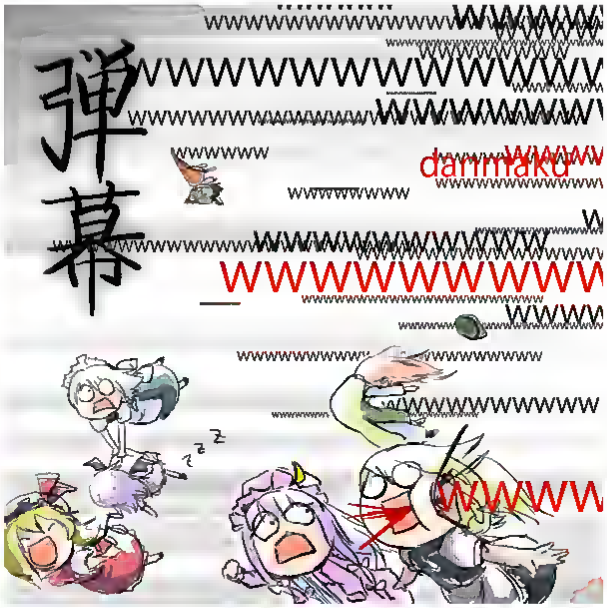
The "lololol" bits at the end were originally "www"s (Japanese internetspeak for "lol", short for "*warai*" (meaning laugh)).
The "spew snot" bit with Koyanagi is a fairly literal translation of "鼻水吹いた" (*hanamizu fuita*), which is used kind of like "thanks, now i need a new keyboard" or just a simple "rofl."

This is tangential, but a somwhat more recent "lol" variant
in the Japanese tubes is "I grew grass."
Why?
Because "wwwwww" looks like grass.
Stuff like "look at all this grass," "yeah this'll grow grass," etc. are also common.

In case it wasn't clear, the note text at the end implied Kabakura got spoiled on that character dying because he only reads manga once it comes out in volume releases, not in the large monthly/weekly magazines.
(I feel you Kabakura, I feel you ;_;)

A BOSS COFFEE vending machine, as featured on page 7. Available every 50 meters in a Japan near you.

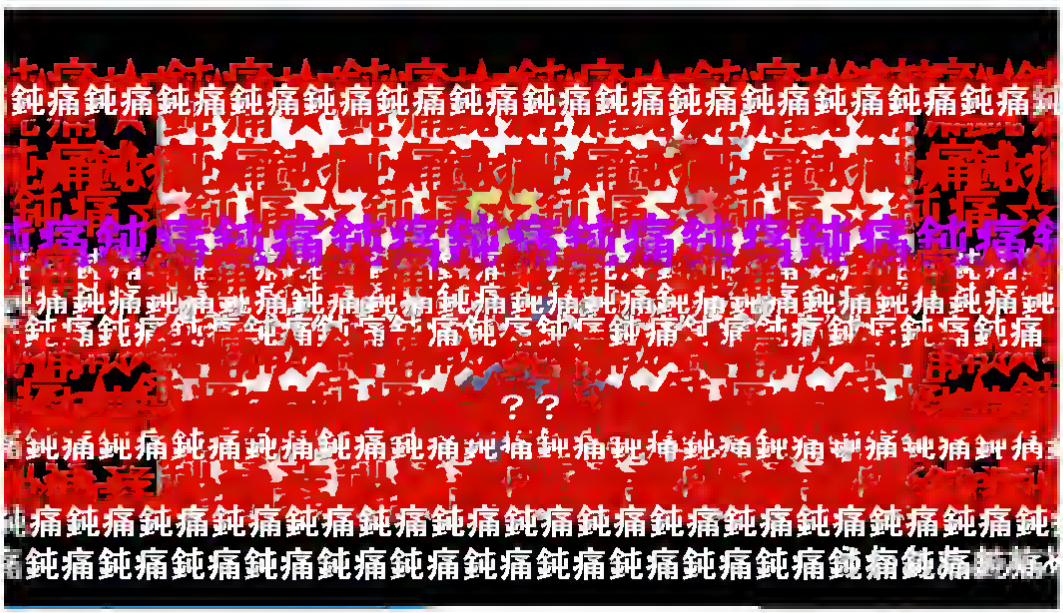
An artist's rendition of of a "grass danmaku."



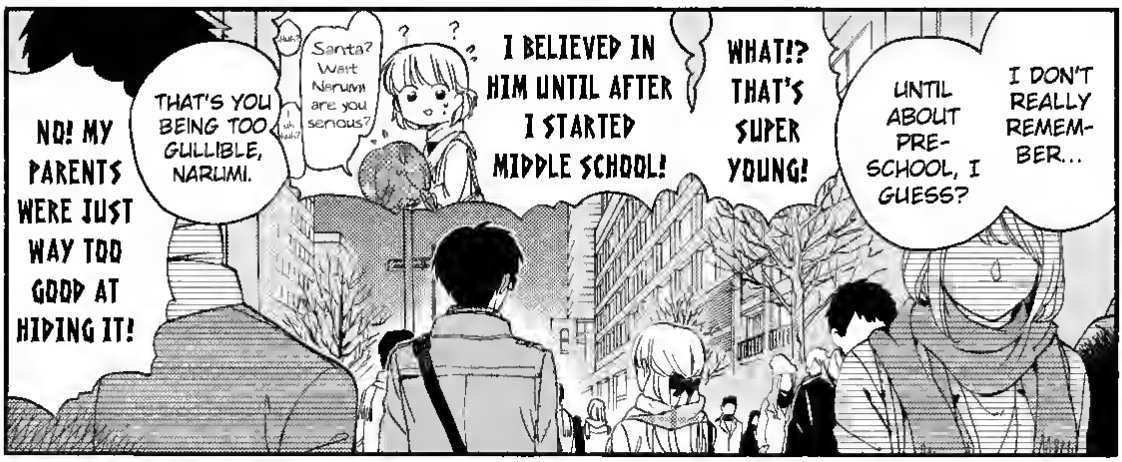
(Danmaku means "hail/curtain of bullets," and is the word used to describe the below phenomenon on Niconico, Japan's youtube equivalent)

A mild example.

A more extreme example.



Episode.... 10


NO! MY PARENTS WERE JUST WAY TOO GOOD AT HIDING IT!
THAT'S YOU BEING TOO GULLIBLE, NARUMI.
Huh?
Santa? Wait Narumi are you serious?
Uh, Huh?
I BELIEVED IN HIM UNTIL AFTER I STARTED MIDDLE SCHOOL!
WHAT!? THAT'S SUPER YOUNG!
UNTIL ABOUT PRE-SCHOOL, I GUESS?
I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER...

I USED TO PLAY A GAME WHERE I'D TRY TO GUESS WHAT WAS IN THE HIDDEN PRESENTS FROM THE SIZE AND WEIGHT AND STUFF. MAN, THAT TAKES ME BACK.
THOUGH I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO ENJOYED THAT RTICULAR GAME.
THAT'S NOT REALLY THE RIGHT WAY TO ENJOY CHRISTMAS THERE, PAL.
SHAKE
SHAKE
From the size, weight, and sound, this must be a GameBoy game.
Or maybe a Super Nintendo game..? Hmm, well the December releases this year are...
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO HUNT FOR THEM!
THEY'D HIDE PRESENTS IN THE SAME PLACE EVERY YEAR, IT WAS SO BORING TO HUNT FOR.
I'M JEALOUS, MINE WERE TERRIBLE AT HIDING THINGS.

(He plays at an advanced level.)

It's cold
Eighth Grade
Wait Naoya what are you doing?
That's dangerous
He won't come any faster
So hurry up and close the window! He goes in order
I thought Santa would come sooner if I opened the window for him!
First grade
JUST IMAGINING IT GIVES ME A WARM FUZZY FEELING!
COME ON, DON'T SAY THAT!
WHICH WAS PRETTY ANNOYING...
SO THEN I HAD TO PLAY ALONG WITH IT FOR HIM...
Should I make it with extra cream?
WELL ANYWAY, I USED TO HAVE FUN DOING THAT...
UP UNTIL I WAS INTERRUPTED BY THE NAOYA BIRTH EVENT.
DON'T TALK ABOUT THE BIRTH OF YOUR BROTHER LIKE IT'S SOME IN-GAME EVENT.
OH!
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...
BUT NOW...
...IS A GOOD TIME TO CHANGE TOPICS, I THINK.
GETTING BACK HOME ON CHRISTMAS THEN WAS LIKE ENTERING PARADISE...
YOU'D GET PRESENTS, YOU'D GET TO EAT CAKE.
IT SURE WAS FUN BACK IN THOSE DAYS...

AH!
HEY THERE YOU TWO!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
HEEY, NAOO!
AHHH, SO CUTE!
NAO, THAT SANTA OUTFIT IS ADORABLE ON YOU!
Here have some coffee~
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
WHY THANK YOU~
HUH? SOMEHOW THAT ONE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A COMPLIMENT.
THAT LOOK SUITS YOU.

th nks
...
OH!
THANK YOU FOR COMING!

And all I have on under it is my work uniform...
BUT EVEN THOUGH IT LOOKS THICK AND FLUFFY,
THIS THING IS ACTUALLY PRETTY COLD...
OH NO... SOUNDS LIKE A TOUGH JOB.

SOUNDS LIKE A TOUGH JOB...!
DEAD SERI-OUS
HUH? UM, YEAH I THINK YOU SAID THAT ONCE ALREADY?

MM...
hmm...
IT'S TRUE THAT IT'S COLD, AND PRETTY BUSY...
BUT I DON'T MIND SEEING PEOPLE'S SMILING FACES, AT LEAST.
Is he a saint, you think?

It's cold out tonight.
WELL, COME ON! YOU HAVE TO WATCH ALL THESE PEOPLE SHOW OFF THEIR HAPPY FACES...
WHILE YOU'RE STUCK WORKING OUT HERE IN THE COLD IN THOSE FLIMSY CLOTHES!
WAAAH
NO, IT'S REALLY NOT THAT BAD!
IT'S TOR-TURE!

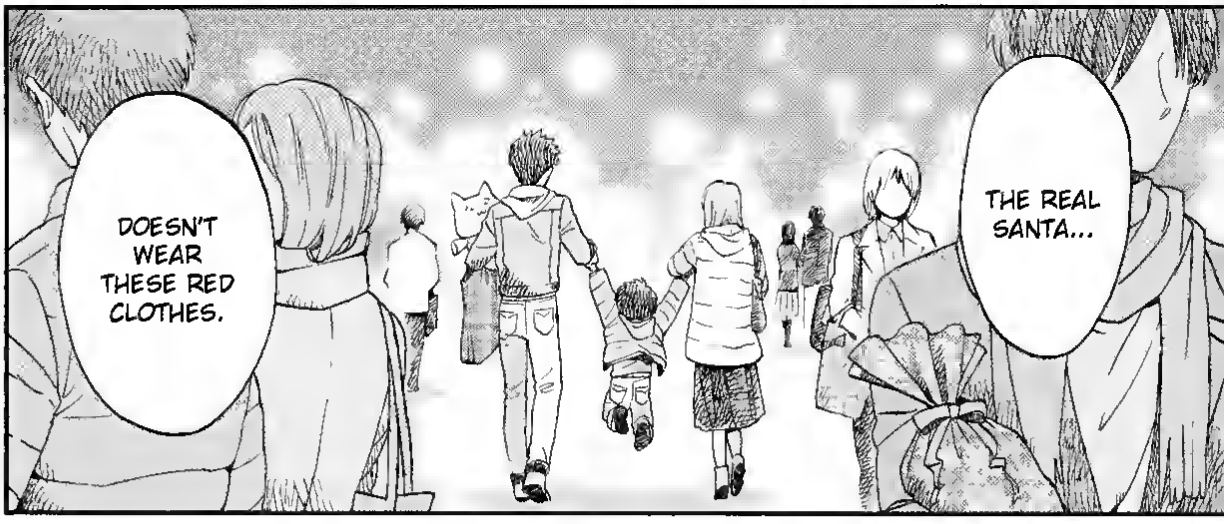
OH, BUT,
I DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND OR ANYTHING MYSELF, SO I GUESS I MIGHT BE A LITTLE JEALOUS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THERE'S NO WAY YOU AREN'T RIDICULOUSLY POPULAR!
NOPE, NOT POPULAR~
HIROTAKA! WHAT DO YOU THINK!?
WAIT, ME?
NAH, YOU DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND!?
...SAY WHAT!?
SURE DON'T~
Uhhhhhhm...
doesn't really get it
knows the feel
Or like a unit who has low stat caps and becomes useless by midgame?
A REALLY GREAT GUY WHO'S JUST NOT QUITE WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR IN A ROMANTIC PARTNER, OR IN OTHER WORDS, THE MAIN CHARACTER'S BEST FRIEND. I GUESS?
UM...
JUST REMEMBER THESE WORDS...
WHENEVER IT GETS SO DIFFICULT, YOU FEEL LIKE YOU CAN'T BEAR IT EVEN A MOMENT LONGER...
FWSH...
...NAH!
YES!?
SPIN

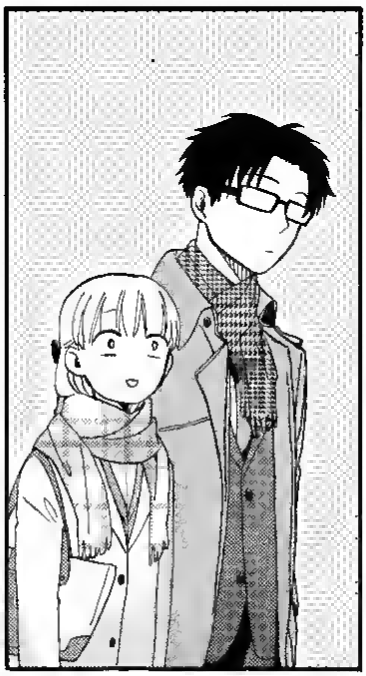
UM... MY FRIEND HAS SAID THAT SAME THING BEFORE...
WHAT EXACTLY DOES IT MEAN?
IM PERMA-NENCE.
HM?
It'll be alright!
...
...I GUESS THE WHOLE 'GETTING DUMPED FOR BEING AN OTAKU' THING LEFT DEEPER SCARS THAN I'D THOUGHT.
Impermanence
A Buddhist concept that states that all normies are but transient and cannot maintain their condition forever. Thus, there is no need to be jealous nor envious of them.
BUT NARUMI,
THERE IS ONE THING I'VE REALIZED FROM WORKING AS A SANTA OUT HERE LIKE THIS.
UH HUH?

 (The hand sign of happiness.)

BYE-BYE!
BYE-BYE!
LOOK! IT'S SANTA!


DOESN'T WEAR THESE RED CLOTHES.
THE REAL SANTA...

AND WHEN THEY DO, THEY BECOME THE REAL SANTA CLAUS.
EVERYONE OUT THERE BECOMES CONNECTED TO SOME OTHER PERSON OR PERSONS,
YOU AND MY BROTHER.
THAT CHILD, AND HIS MOTHER AND FATHER.
...ONE DAY, ME AND SOMEONE ELSE.



71 (That's not the kind of explode I meant there, kid.)

Wotaku ni koi ha Huzukashii.....

Credits:

Author and Artist: Fujita

Notes:

Christmas is celebrated in Japan, but it's not a national holiday so people typically do not the day off work or school. It's also a custom to eat cake, specifically a "christmas cake," on Christmas. You can find people in Santa outfits selling such cakes by the roadride all over the place during the runup to Christmas.

Japan, or at least Tokyo, is not immune to the "put out the Christmas decorations earlier every year phenomenon." Last year, businesses literally had them up the day after Halloween. Not even kidding.

The "main character's best friend" is a reference to the MC's friend in all those harem shows/games who is just present enough to say "look we have two males characters" but not around enough to potentially develop a relationship with any of the other characters.

The "Impermanence" concept is actually a thing in Buddhism (according to Wikipedia), but surprisingly it does not seem to have any references to normies???

"Normies, go explode" is my attempt at translating the extremely popular otaku-slang phrase "riajuu bakuhatsu shiro" (リア充爆発しろ！).

"Riajuu" is a portmanteau of the English word "Real", basically short for "real life," and "juujitsu suru" (充実する), a verb that means to be fulfilled. It means "person who has a happy and fulfilling life outside the internet," or just "someone who isn't an otaku."
Lately it's most common usage is just "someone who isn't single."

"Bakuhatsu shiro" is a command form of the verb "to explode."

So the general idea is that happy/not-otaku people in a relationship should fuck off and die (It's really mostly used jokingly/in self-deprecating humor.)

There's another variant that goes more like "explode happily ever after!" (末永く爆発しろ！) that is often used by people commenting on a story when a "deserving" couple finally gets together.
Kind of a "fuck you for being happy but also I want you to be happy AUGH!" thing

A related meme is the "Wall Punching Proxy Service," a fictional service where you can pay someone to punch a wall for you when you are so frustrated at normies that you just gotta punch a wall, but unfortunately lack a wall to punch, muscles with which to punch, or the ability to get out of your computer chair for any reason.

You can see their commerical here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SlI8WNPtRU

The "hand sign of happiness" is just a thumbs down. Japan thinks that a thumbs down in America is extremely rude and means like "go to hell."
"Hand sign of happiness" is a fake sarcastic name, in case you missed that

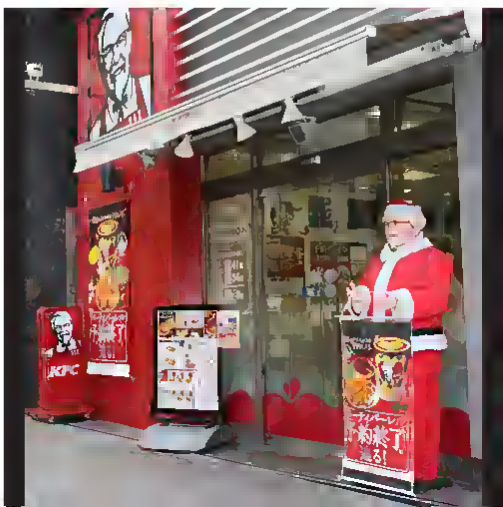
A fairly typical Christmas cake.

A fairly typical example of a Christmas cake seller. They're usually out doing this for a handful of days before Christmas. You can reserve a cake too, if you want.

Guess what else is a tradition to eat during Christmas in Japan?
That's right, Kentucky Fried Chicken!
It's a huge deal and you have to put an order in a few days in advance or no KFC for you.

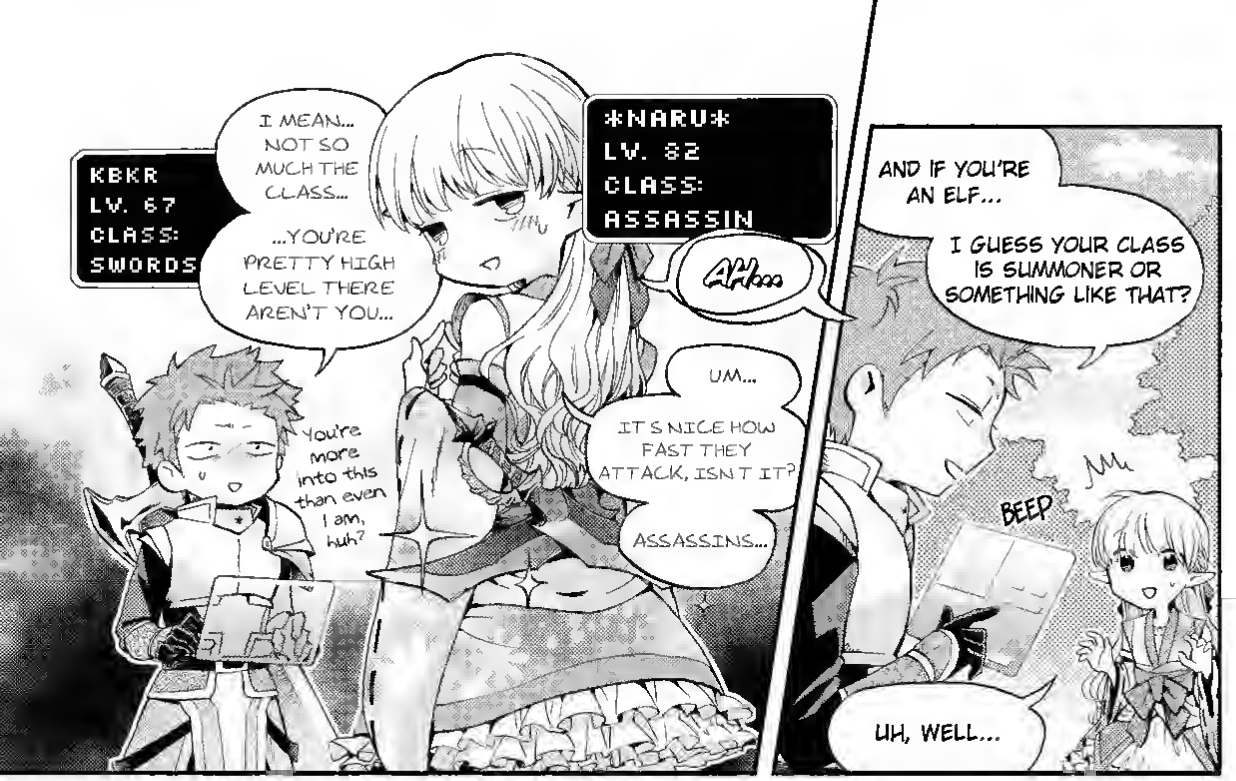
Apparently KFC just had a really good marketing campaign with lucky timing a few decades ago, and it just stuck. Iunno... Iunno.

A wall punching proxy service employee.
Need a wall punched? He's got you covered.

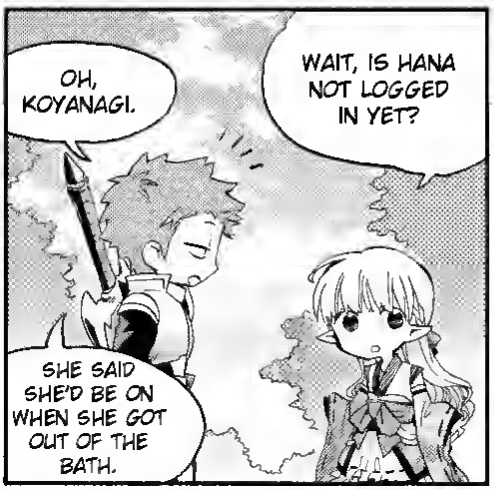


Episode....11
?
THE MANGA YOU ARE READING IS 'LOVE IS HARD FOR OTAKU,' THERE HAS NOT BEEN A MISTAKE.
▶CONTINUE
QUIT

THE ENTRANCE TO THE FOREST ZONE.
HEY, I'M ON NOW!
KABAKURA, WHERE'RE YOU AT?
NARU HAS LOGGED IN.
OH! THERE YOU ARE!
SO CUTE.
KABAKURA, GOOD WORK TODAY.
YOU TOO.
...BUT WE'RE NOT AT THE OFFICE, YOU CAN DROP THE FORMALITIES.
OOPS! SORRY, HABIT.
HA, YEAH I KNOW THAT FEEL.
SO CUTE.
YOU WENT WITH ELF AS YOUR RACE?
THAT'S A GOOD MATCH FOR YOU!
SO YOU'RE A SWORDS-MAN?
CLASS CHOICE CAN SAY A LOT ABOUT YOU, HUH?


KBKR
LV. 67
CLASS:
SWORDS
I MEAN... NOT SO MUCH THE CLASS...
...YOU'RE PRETTY HIGH LEVEL THERE AREN'T YOU...
NARU
LV. 82
CLASS:
ASSASSIN
Ahhh
UM...
IT'S NICE HOW FAST THEY ATTACK, ISN'T IT?
ASSASSINS...
You're more into this than even I am, huh?
AND IF YOU'RE AN ELF...
I GUESS YOUR CLASS IS SUMMONER OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
BEEP
UH, WELL...

I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT SHE DIDN'T LIKE GAMES ALL THAT MUCH...
YEAH...
I WAS PRETTY SURPRISED MYSELF WHEN I HEARD SHE WANTED TO PLAY A PC GAME, BUT...

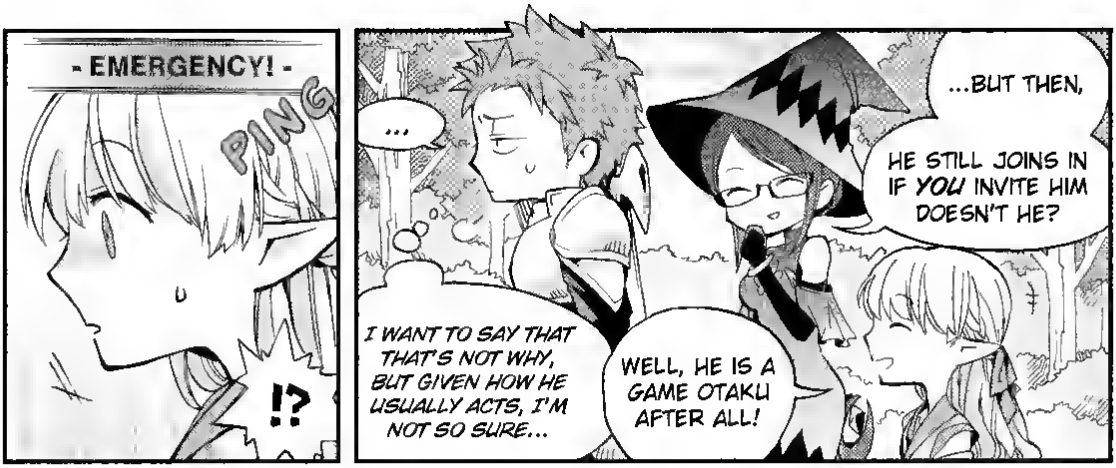

OH, KOYANAGI.
WAIT, IS HANA NOT LOGGED IN YET?
SHE SAID SHE'D BE ON WHEN SHE GOT OUT OF THE BATH.

...HEH,
YOU MIGHT NOT THINK IT, BUT IN SOME WAYS SHE GETS INFLUENCED PRETTY EASILY.

I'LL SAY THOUGH,
I NEVER EXPECTED SHE'D START PLAYING AN MMO WITH US... THAT WAS A NICE SURPRISE.

(Everyone enjoys it their own way.)

SO WHERE'S NIFUJI?
OH RIGHT, I GOT MESSAGE FROM HIM A BIT AGO.
HE SAYS "I'LL BE THERE IN A LITTLE WHILE ^ω^b"
AND HERE I FIGURED HE'D HAVE BEATEN US ALL HERE BY A MILE.
YEAH, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE HE DOESN'T MUCH LIKE ONLINE GAMES.
OH, REALLY?
SAYS IT'S A PAIN HAVING TO INTERACT WITH STRANGERS.
THAT AND THEY TEND TO NOT BE VERY FRIENDLY TO SOLO PLAY, IS WHY.


- EMERGENCY! -
PING
!?
...
...BUT THEN,
HE STILL JOINS IN IF *YOU* INVITE HIM DOESN'T HE?
I WANT TO SAY THAT THAT'S NOT WHY, BUT GIVEN HOW HE USUALLY ACTS, I'M NOT SO SURE...
WELL, HE IS A GAME OTAKU AFTER ALL!

WITH JUST ME AND MOMOSE AS MELEE AND A LOW-LEVELED KOYANAGI AS SUPPORT THIS'LL BE PRETTY ROUGH...
LET'S RETREAT FOR NOW AND HEAD TO THE NEXT ZONE!
IT'S A RARE SPAWN! UGH, TERRIBLE TIMING!
WOAH!
HUH? WHAT?

BRING IT!
dash
dash
RUNNING AWAY HERE WOULD SULLY OUR HONOR AS SWORDSMEN!
YOU'RE AN ASSASSIN!
COME ON, THAT WOULD BE A WASTE!
YOU DON'T GET THE CHANCE TO FIGHT SOMETHING LIKE THIS VERY OFTEN!
MOMOSE, NO! THE GREED IS BLINDING YOU!
AUGH, FINE!
KOYANAGI, YOU STAY IN THE BACK AND FOCUS ON SUPPORT SPELLS!
AND WHY DO I HAVE TO LISTEN TO ORDERS FROM YOU?
HUH!?

EXCUSE ME!
COULD YOU TRY FIGHTING THE MONSTER INSTEAD PLEASE!?
HELLO!?
Track Suit
I NEVER WANT A JOB
▲ Smiley Slippers
▲ NEET Sash
THAT DUMB GIMMICK GEAR CAN ONLY BE...
...WAIT!
HIROTAKA!
.....AH.

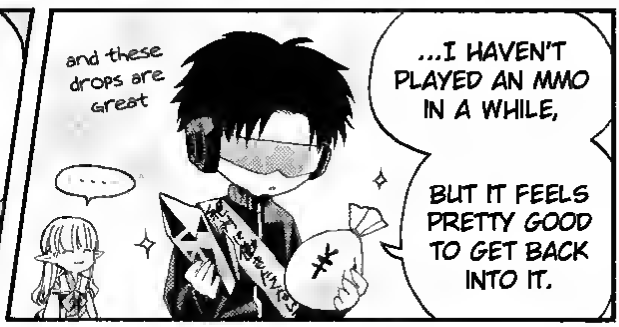
...OR NOT!
I NEVER WANT A JOB
HELLO!
HI NARUMI!
OH, KABAKURA AND KOYANAGI ARE HERE TOO!
BUT WAIT!
NIFUJI'S CHARACTER IS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OUT OF ALL OF US!
BEEP
NAO! DO YOU KNOW THE CONTROLS?
NOPE, BUT I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT!
WHERE'S PUNCH?
IT'S NO USE, KABAKURA! WE'RE DONE FOR!
FWSH FWSH FWSH FWSH FWSH FWSH
I NEVER WANT A JOB
SURE LOOKS LIKE IT!
OH, HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO RECORD AN ANIME OR SOMETHING AND WOULD BE ON SOON.
HE TOLD ME TO GO AHEAD AND LOG IN FOR HIM.
IS THAT PERSON THERE A BOSS?
YES!
THAT VOICE IS...NAO!?
WHERE'S HIROTAKA!?

BOOM
Aaah~
Woooo!!!
OH NO!
WATCH OUT! THE MONSTER IS CHANGING TARGETS TO Y-...
hop
JUMP!
OKAY LET ME TRY TO GO OVER WHERE YOU GUYS ARE.
HIROTA- ER, I MEAN, NAO! ARE YOU OKAY!?
SWAP
WOW...
I'VE NEVER SEEN "HIROTAKA" SO USELESS BEFORE...
GOOD TIME FOR A SCREENSHOT.
...SO I JUST NEED TO KILL IT WITHOUT TAKING DAMAGE, RIGHT?
OH, YEAH, HAVE FUN TRYING!
OKAY, SO NOW WHAT...?
THIS IS BAD...
I DON'T HAVE ANY ITEMS THAT CAN HEAL *THAT*.
I'M ALMOST OUT OF MANA, TOO.
YEAH, YOU USED IT ALL ON SHOOTING ME!

SORRY
おまたせ
OK
I'M
LATE
EVER WANT A JO
ううううう
ドドドド
SNAP

OH, IT DIED.

HEY, CAN I HAVE A TURN?
NO.
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
カチ カチ カチ カチ カチ カチ カチ カチ カチ カチ カチ カチ


...I HAVEN'T PLAYED AN MMO IN A WHILE,
BUT IT FEELS PRETTY GOOD TO GET BACK INTO IT.
and these drops are great
....

...MULTIPLAYER IS AWESOME!
THAT WAS SOLO PLAY YOU NUMBSKULL!
stop shining god dammit!
Shi-@...

Credits:

Artist and Author: Fujita

Notes:

Due to the nature of the language (needing to have a million characters), Japanese MMOs and other games will typically let you use all sorts of stuff in your character name, like the asterisks in Narumi's.
(Honestly I don't know if that's a thing in English language MMOs now or not, but it didn't used to be in any case.)

It's customary to greet coworkers with "good work" (i.e. some variant of お疲れ様 (otsukaresama) basically whenever you run into them (that, or "good morning" if you're just getting to work (even if it's not the morning)). Not really necessary for friends who meet up outside work though.

Hopefully it was clear, but the idea was that Koyanagi saw how Narumi and Hirotaka played games together and thought it'd be nice to have something like that to share with Kabakura. This topic came up in chapter 6 too.

The "sexy-cute" is a fairly literal translation of "ero-kawaii," which is...kind of a *thing* in Japan (not limited to otaku/nerds).

^ω^b
The 'b' is a little thumbs up.

NEET is an abbreviation of "Not in Education, Employment, or Training" (or homemaking, typically), that actually came from the United Kingdom first and later became widespread in Japan and a few other Asian countries.
It's official usage in economic statistics only counts people aged 15~34, at least in Japan, but colloquial usage is just non-student, non-homemaker, unemployed people (especially those who don't seem to be trying to find a job real hard).
Another joke name for NEET is "Home Security Force."

Yes, Naoya referred to the dragon as a person. What a card.

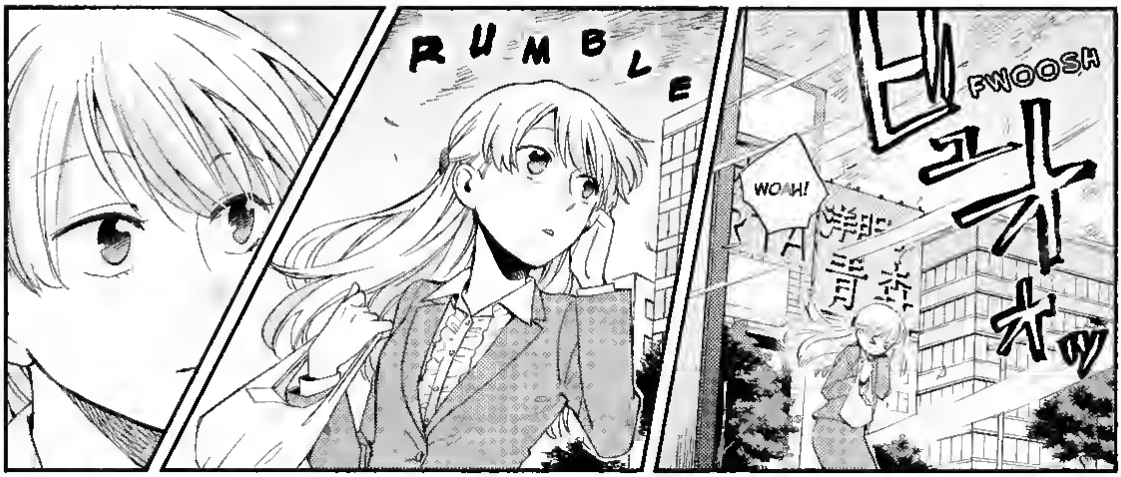
Hirotaka's "ok" was originally "おk", which is what pops up if you type "ok" when the language is set to Japanese. Also, most of the "in-game" dialogue in this chapter was written horizontally, instead of vertically as is standard in manga (since text in MMOs appears horizontally as well). If you go back and look at the speech bubbles you can see they are laid out a bit different than usual.

I figure most people are aware, but ¥ is the Japanese Yen equivalent of the dollar sign($).

joke cosplay of a "home security guard"

that stick they have is for beating futons and such when airing them out

Episode....12



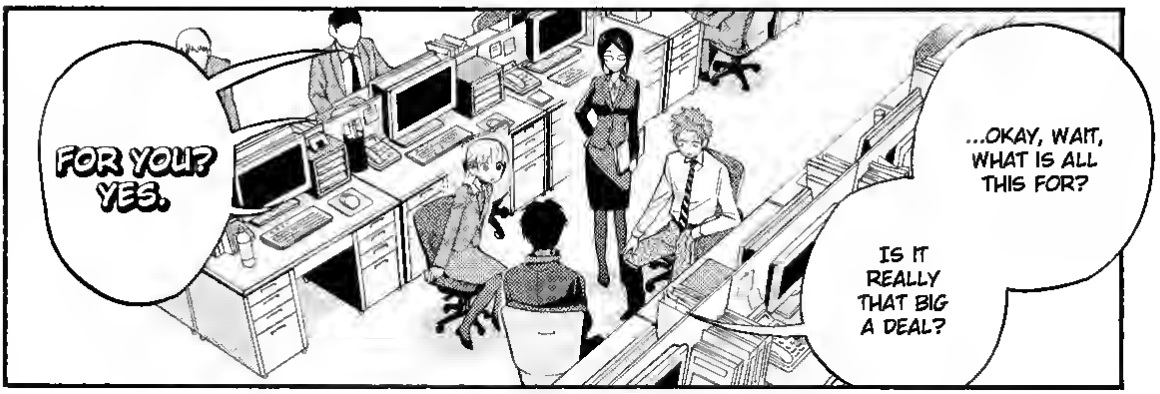
FWTLE
HMMM
COME ON, DOESN'T THIS WEATHER MAKE YOU WANT TO CHUUNI IT UP A LITTLE?
NOT IN THE LEAST.
AW, TYPHOON WEATHER IS A LITTLE SCARY BUT ISN'T IT A LITTLE EXCITING TOO?
CAN'T SAY THAT IT IS.

(The wind is troubled today...)

FLASH
TWITCH
TWITCH
WAH!
...MAN, THAT WAS A BIG ONE, HUH?
LOOKS LIKE IT'LL BE RAINING ON THE WAY HOME.
RUMBLE
OOO
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
COULDN'T HURT TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER WORK.
WE SHOULD PROBABLY START HEADING BACK.
REALLY? YOU DONE ALREADY?
MAYBE I SHOULD GO AHEAD AND BUY AN UMBRELLA FROM THE CONVENIENCE STORE...

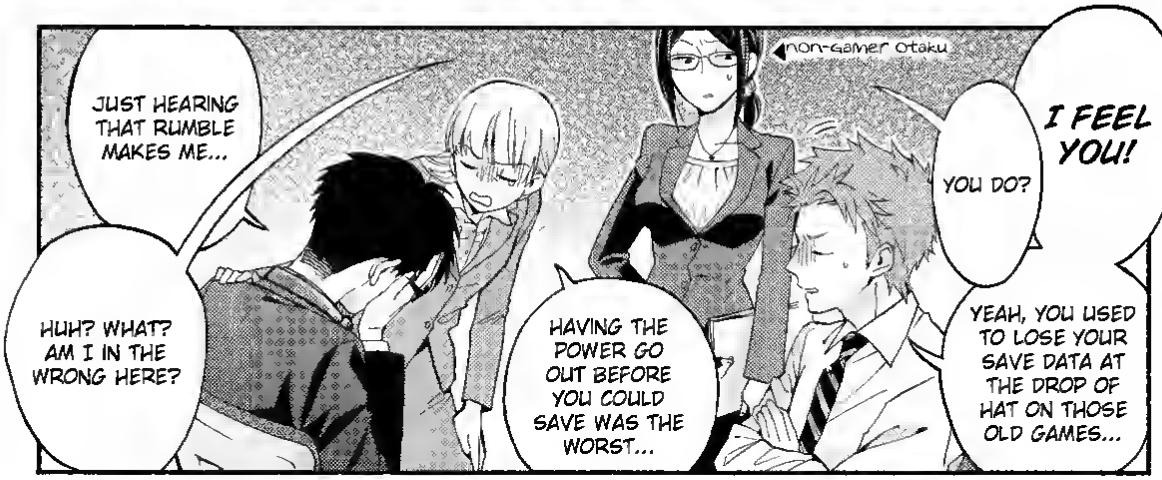
THERE WAS A THUNDERSTORM WARNING FOR THIS AFTERNOON,
SO MAKE SURE YOU SAVE THINGS OFTEN, DON'T WANT TO LOSE A LOT OF WORK IF THE POWER GOES OUT.
TELL THAT TO YOURSELF.
Fshhhh
RUMBLE RUMBLE
SOUNDS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE PRETTY BAD...
HEY, YOU HEAR ME?
...
clack
HEY, HIROTAKA,
NIFUJI!!
what the hell are you doing!?
SEE!?
OH COME ON YOU CAN'T DO THAT AT WORK, SOMEONE'S GONNA BE PISSED!
I CAN'T SAVE YOU FROM THIS ONE!

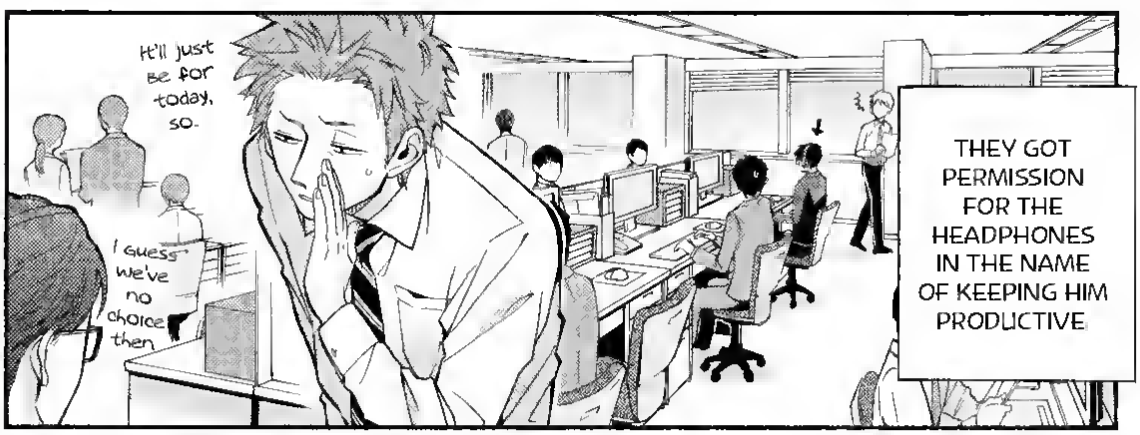
YOU'RE AFRAID
...
OF THUNDER?


FOR YOU? YES.
...OKAY, WAIT, WHAT IS ALL THIS FOR?
IS IT REALLY THAT BIG A DEAL?

I DON'T EXACTLY HAVE ANY GOOD EXPERIENCES WITH IT, IS ALL.
I JUST DON'T LIKE IT.
I KNOW, RIGHT?
WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT YOU OF ALL PEOPLE WOULD BE AFRAID OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

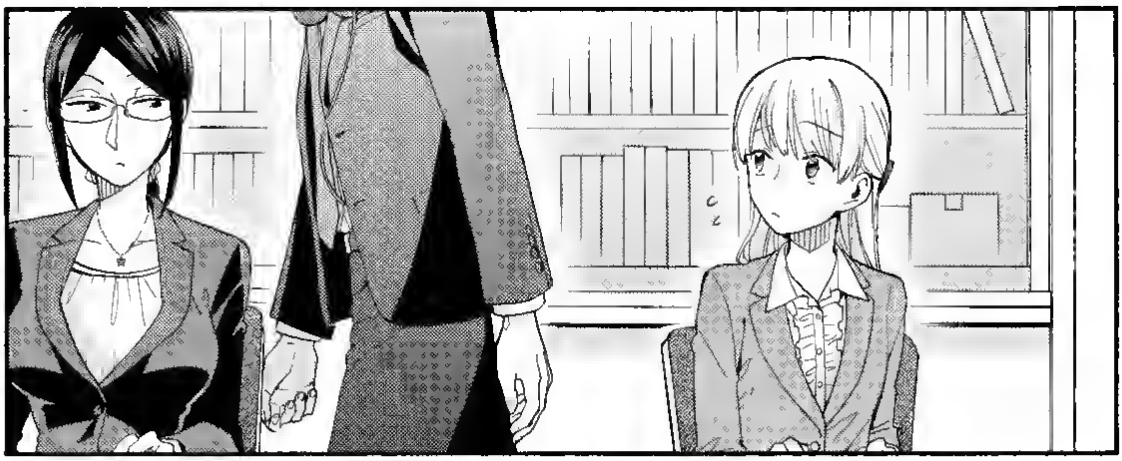
Wha-
THAT'S A MUCH DUMBER REASON THAN I EXPECTED.
SCORE-
NEWGAME
NOUKI


non-gamer otaku
JUST HEARING THAT RUMBLE MAKES ME...
HUH? WHAT? AM I IN THE WRONG HERE?
HAVING THE POWER GO OUT BEFORE YOU COULD SAVE WAS THE WORST...
YOU DO?
I FEEL YOU!
YEAH, YOU USED TO LOSE YOUR SAVE DATA AT THE DROP OF HAT ON THOSE OLD GAMES...


It'll just be for today, so-
I guess we've no choice then
THEY GOT PERMISSION FOR THE HEADPHONES IN THE NAME OF KEEPING HIM PRODUCTIVE

Boom
FLASH
WOH
AH!
!!
FLINCH
THUD
HOLY-! DID THAT HIT OUR BUILD-ING?
I'M FINE, I JUST NEED TO GO ROLL A SANITY CHECK REAL QUICK.
OH, YEAH.
HEY, NIFUJI YOU ALRIGHT?
murmur
THAT WAS A BIG ONE!
DROP
I DON'T THINK THAT COUNTS AS FINE.
alright, go
ALMOST JUMPED OUT OF MY SKIN.
murmur
WAS THAT DEEP VOICE JUST NOW NARU...?
N-N-NO! IT WAS NOT!

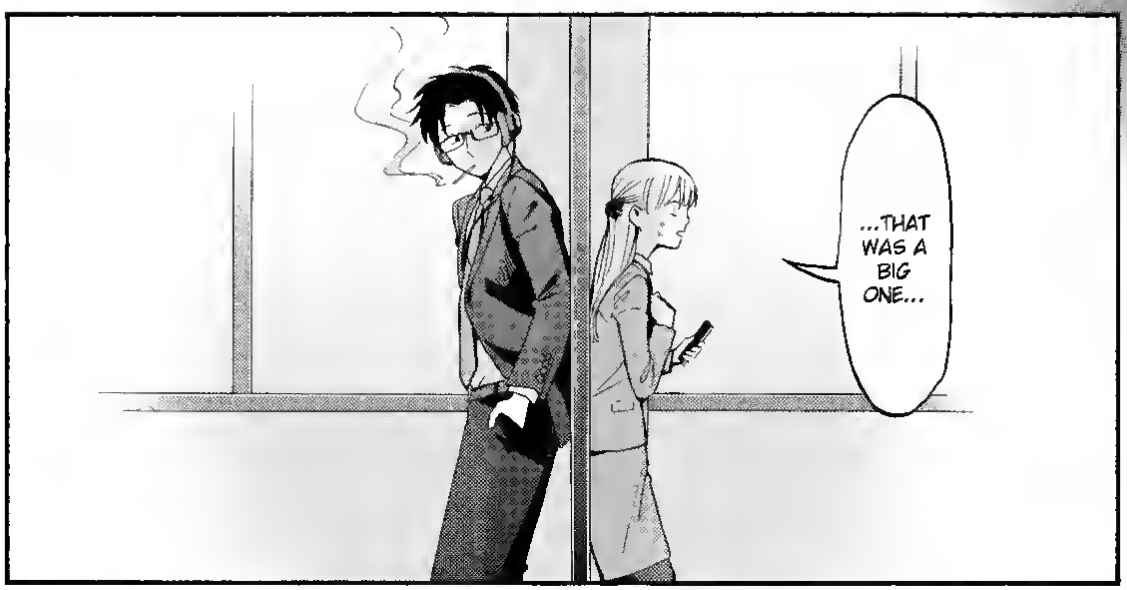
my head is killing me though
...YEAH.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?
HIRO-TAKA,



...
BESIDES, HE LOOKED ALRIGHT JUST NOW, DIDN'T HE?
I MEAN, IT'S NIFUJI, I'M SURE HE'S JUST FINE.
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING A LITTLE TOO WORRIED?
BUT...
PEOPLE CAN'T HELP BEING AFRAID OF THINGS THEY FIND SCARY, NO MATTER HOW OLD THEY GET.

Fshhh..
fsshh
nnh...
tick
tick
tick
Din
FLASH
tick
tick
tick
DingDong
fsshh..
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
DingDong
DingDong

Boom
ゴロゴロ
WOW
TWITCH
Rumble
Rumble


...THAT WAS A BIG ONE...

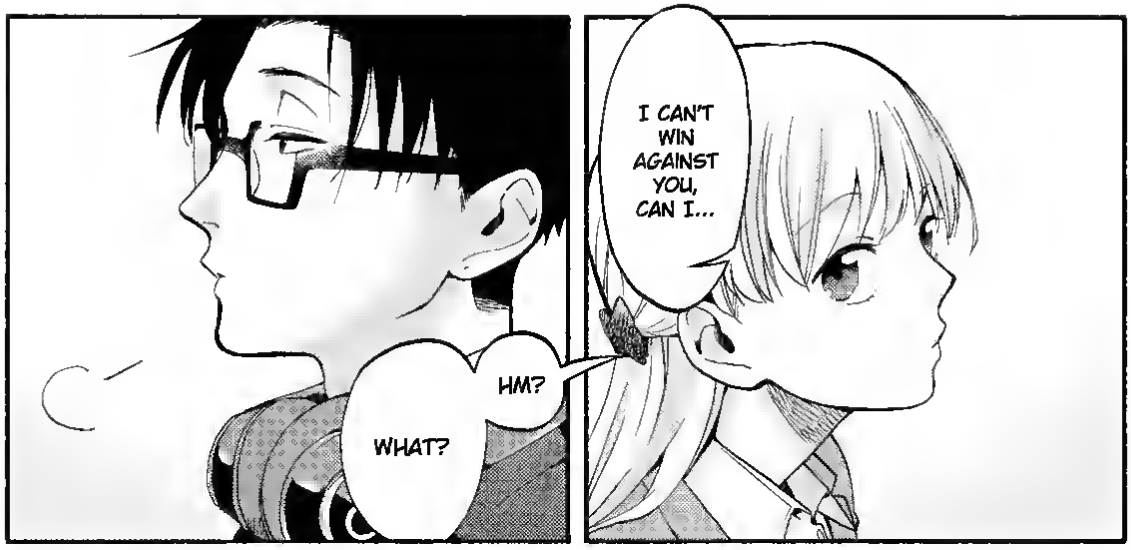
OFF TO MAKE A SANITY CHECK.
SHE WANT TO DO OVERTIME AGAIN TODAY...?
...HUH?
WHERE'D MOMOSE GO?

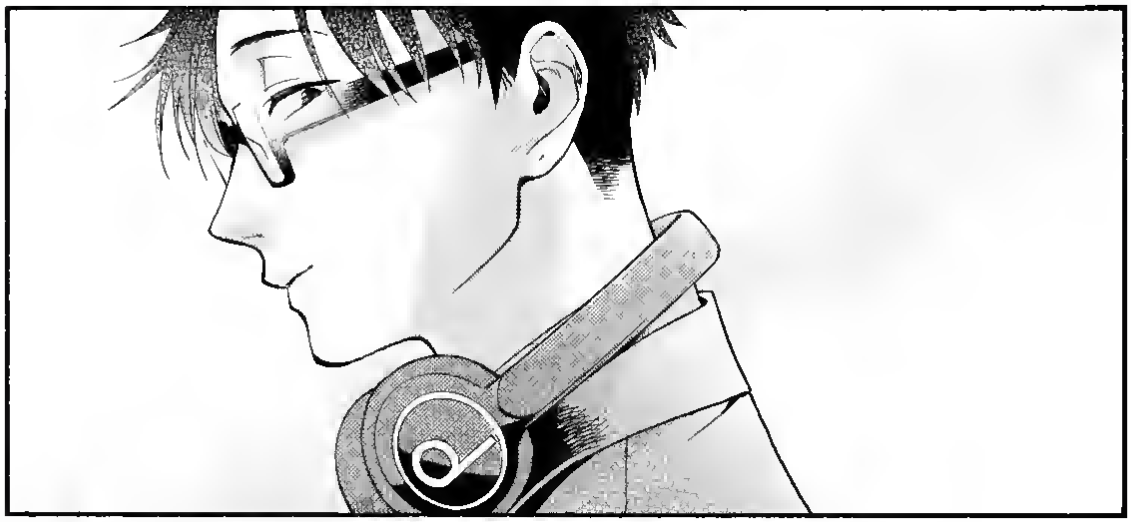
I'm taking a smoke break
(^ω^)y—･~~
Yeah well I was in the bathroom
(`3´)
Then you shouldn't be on your phone now, should you?
(~ω~)
And wait, what do you mean smoke break?
You said it like it's the most natural thing in the world, but just because it's tolerated doesn't mean it's a real break, and anyway why do smokers get
Okay sorry
(´･ω･`)
I'll go back in just a sec
wwww
What're you doing?
You're gonna get in trouble
lol coming from you

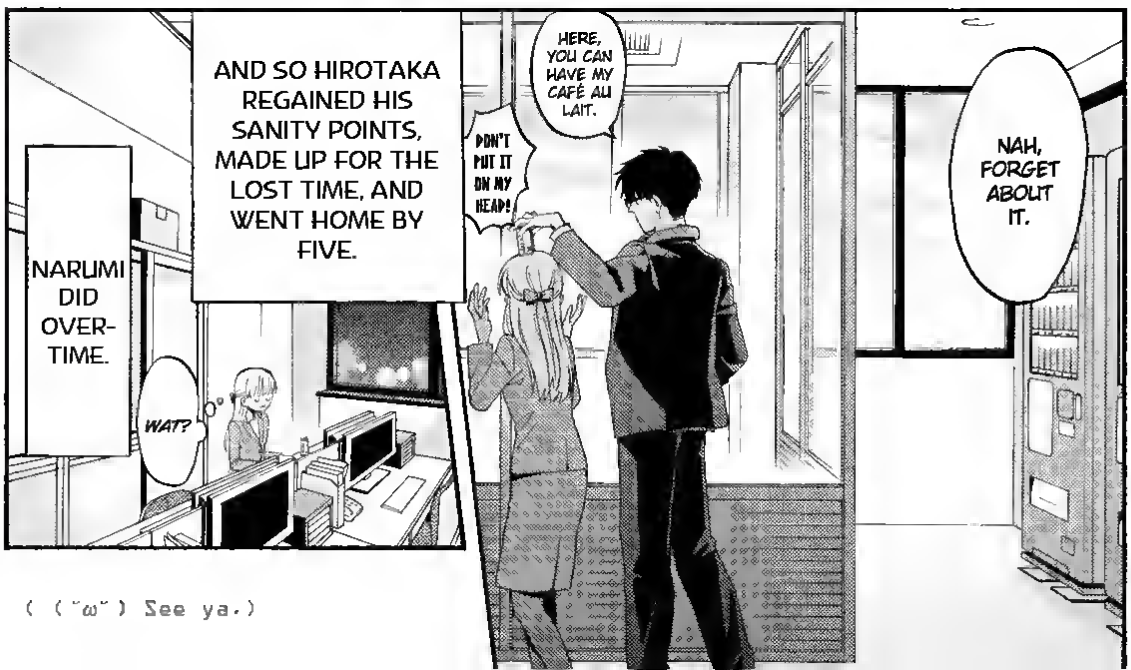
Besides,
I'm scared of it too, you know
Thunder
And this glass in the way,

Isn't helping any

DING DONG
DING DONG
YES?
DING DONG
OPEN
GAHHHH
HIRO-TAKA-AA!!!
THE THUNDER'S SO LOUD!
FLASH
SLAM
AH!
HIRO-TAKA YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
KIDS SHOULDN'T OPEN THE DOOR ALONE!
HUH
BUT I WAS PRETTY SURE IT WAS YOU.
NOBODY ELSE WOULD RING THAT MANY TIMES.
OH COME ON DON'T BE MEAN! I CAME ALL THIS WAY TO VISIT YOU WHILE YOU'RE SICK!
IT WAS REALLY SCARY OUT THERE ALONE YOU KNOW!
...OH. HUH? BUT FOR SOME REASON...
I'M NOT SCARED ANYMORE!
ME TOO.
Hey is Nao here?
No, daycare.
He'll be back with Mom later.
Aw too bad, I wanted to see him too.
...Wanna wait till he gets back? We could play a game.
Aren't you sick!?
If I don't play games I'll die.


I CAN'T WIN AGAINST YOU, CAN I...
HM?
WHAT?




AND SO HIROTAKA REGAINED HIS SANITY POINTS, MADE UP FOR THE LOST TIME, AND WENT HOME BY FIVE.
NARUMI DID OVER-TIME.
WAT?
HERE, YOU CAN HAVE MY CAFÉ AU LAIT.
DON'T PUT IT ON MY HEAD!
NAH, FORGET ABOUT IT.

Wotaku ni koi ha Muzukashii.....

Wotaku ni koi ha Muzukashii.....

Credits:

Art and Author: Fujita

Notes:

The area Narumi and Hirotaka are in in the beginning is based on a plaza in Shinjuku (a major district in Tokyo), directly outside Shinjuku Station's East Exit. Shinjuku Station is the largest train station in the world in terms of number of people who go through it daily.

In some areas of Tokyo, like Shinjuku or Minato, smoking on the streets is discouraged or even banned (in contrast to the US and other places, where most smoking bans are targeted at indoor areas). As a concession to smokers, these districts have also set up walled off areas for people to smoke in near many train stations.

"What are you, 14?" is a reference to chuunibyou (middle school 2nd year (8th grade in Japan) disease), where someone basically acts like a Mary Sue character from their genre of choice (generally to attract attention/make themselves feel different/unique). KyoAni, the people behind Haruhi, did a whole anime on it.

"The wind is troubled today..." is also a chuuni-y thing, but specifically references the scene with Literary Girl in the Daily Lives of High School Boys anime/manga (which may itself be referencing a specific something else, I dunno).

Typhoon is basically just the term for a hurricane that occurs in the northwest Pacific Ocean.

"Fast af" in the Japanese was a very slangy way of saying "super fast."

Most offices in Japan have open office plans (as you may have noticed by now), and as part of that you are generally not allowed to wear earphones/listen to music/etc while at your desk. It sucks.

Back when games were on cartridges, before memory cards and such, you could lose all your data to a power surge or sudden blackout. Or dropping the cartridge from too high, etc.

Sanity Checks are a mechanic in the tabletop roleplaying game Call of Cthulhu, which is actually fairly popular in Japan, as far as tabletop roleplaying games go. The concept was further popularized with the Nyaruko anime (about Nyarlathotep and other Lovecraftian horrors as anime girls), and in particular the OP song which featured the term "SAN-chi Pinchi!" prominently (SAN being an abbreviation for Sanity, "-chi" being "points," and "pinchi" just a Japanese pronunciation of "pinch," as in "dire situation").

Here's the OP in question:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PxnTy6CcCU

And here's the Literary Girl scene mentioned above:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlNHlply-dY

I couldn't find a good picture of the smoking area, but if you face the Studio Alta building, as seen above, and turn left it's right there.

HASTUR NYARLATHOTEP CTHUGHA

↑ Ideal ↑

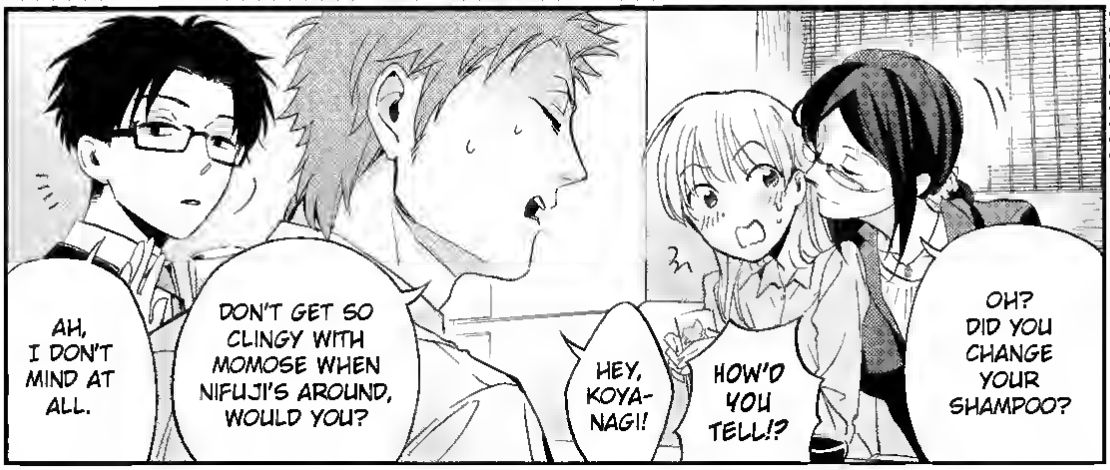
They ran into each other when walking around that corner
Aw, that must suck. But the nose tissue thing looks funny as heck.
Tilting your head back is actually bad for this, right?
Right, right.
Tapping the back of your neck actually doesn't help either
↑ Actual ↑

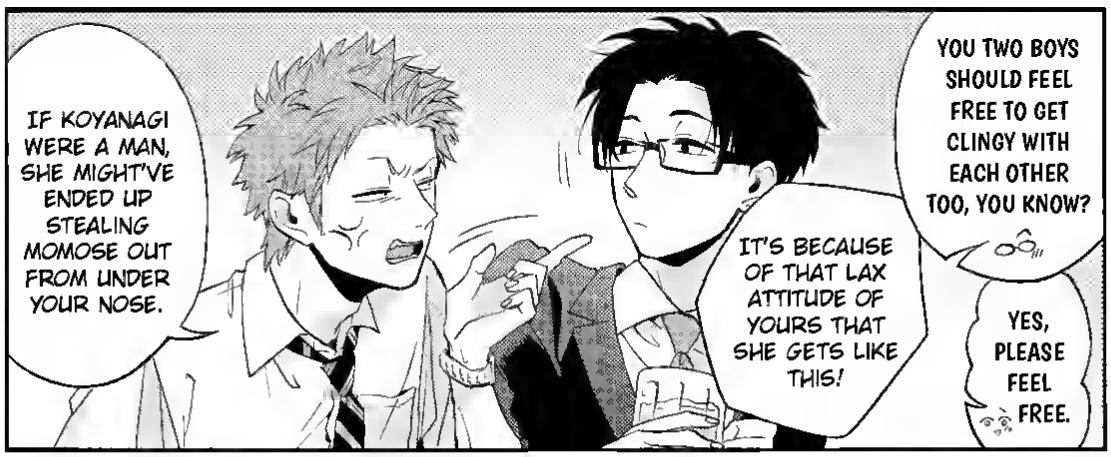
Perv

YOU PERV.
EYES UP HERE,
↑Male reader's ideal↑

↑Reality as brought to you by Wotakoi↑

HEY, WHO PUT TOGETHER THESE DOCUMENTS HERE?
HEY, YEAH, THAT WAS ME.
YES, UNDERSTOOD.
I'LL PERSONALLY SEE TO THE PREPARATION OF THE REPORTS FOR LAST MONTH'S DATA FOR YOU.
NIFUJI.
'SUP.
TRY NOT TO USE CASUAL LANGUAGE WITH CLIENTS AND YOUR SUPERIORS, OKAY?
Well it's fine with me
OH, SURE.
AND WHAT ABOUT THESE, WHO DID THEM?
.....
...GOOD ENOUGH.
WAS THIS ONE YOU, TOO?
NO, SORRY, 'TWAS SOMEONE ELSE.
'TWAS I.


AH, I DON'T MIND AT ALL.
DON'T GET SO CLINGY WITH MOMOSE WHEN NIFUJI'S AROUND, WOULD YOU?
HEY, KOYA-NAGI!
HOW'D YOU TELL!?
OH? DID YOU CHANGE YOUR SHAMPOO?


IF KOYANAGI WERE A MAN, SHE MIGHT'VE ENDED UP STEALING MOMOSE OUT FROM UNDER YOUR NOSE.
IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT LAX ATTITUDE OF YOURS THAT SHE GETS LIKE THIS!
YOU TWO BOYS SHOULD FEEL FREE TO GET CLINGY WITH EACH OTHER TOO, YOU KNOW?
YES, PLEASE FEEL FREE.

IF I WERE A MAN,
OBVIOUSLY I'D BE BL-ING IT UP WITH YOU, SILLY.

YEAH, COME ON!
HA HA.
HOW ABSURD.

...
IS THAT IT...?
I'D EXPECTED IT WOULD HURT A LOT WORSE.
SNAP
I LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT.
MIGHT AS WELL TAKE IT OUT.
and then go play some games
THAT IT'D MAKE ME FEEL BETTER, AFTER-WARDS.
I EXPECTED THAT THERE'D BE MORE BLOOD, I GUESS.
THAT THERE'D BE MORE TEARS.
IT'S STARTING TO HURT A LOT MORE... AH, AND NOW IT'S BLEEDING...
WHAT'LL I DO IF IT NEVER COMES OFF...
I'VE MADE A HUGE MIS-TAKE...
10 MINUTES LATER
IT WON'T COME OFF...

I THOUGHT BECOMING AN ADULT,
WOULD BE A LOT EASIER THAN THIS.
I LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT.

HE'S PRACTICING!!

Dignity
YEAH, I'M DOIN' IT ON PUR-POSE!
YOU'RE NOT DOING ANY-THING AT ALL.

The Boyfriend Shirt
How's this?
Do you not have something better to say in this situation!?
I feel like I was just mugged...!
you know it's still february, right?
shiver
shiver

Wotaku ni Koi wa Muzukashii.....

Credits

Art and Author: Fujita

Notes

The page about "formal language" was originally about the first person pronoun Hirotaka was using for himself. Specifically, he was using 'ore' (sounds more like 'oreh,' not the ore in "iron ore"), which is a 'strong' masculine one that is generally not considered acceptable in a business environment, especially from a younger and/or lower on the totem pole employee (but it is super common in normal conversation from men of all ages).

Anyway, Kabakura heard him say 'ore' and was like:
"Hey that's improper, don't use that word with clients/vendors/business partners/bosses."

Hirotaka agrees, then proceeds to use 'boku,' which is another masculine pronoun, but one that is somewhat more acceptable in a formal environment (though still far from ideal).

Kabakura, btw, was correctly using 'watakushi,' which is more gender neutral and business-friendly.

I've included an extra version of that page after the notes with a more literal TL, just for reference.

I assume all of you are familiar with BL at this point.

Hirotaka was practicing winking, which we learned he couldn't do in the chapter 2 extra.

The last page is a play on the cliched situation where a woman leans up against a (dense) man, pressing her chest against him, then he gets flustered and says something dumb like "um, your, uh... are touching__," and the woman is like "yeah, I know, I'm doing it on purpose you dweeb, take the hint."

Except the joke is that Narumi doesn't have anything with which to press.

Why did I explain this.

This is the panel from the 2005 manga "Takaya," where the specific wording of the cliche was born. Not translated, but I think it's pretty clear anyway.

*ore

*watakushi

NIFUJI.
YES?
TRY NOT TO USE 'ORE' WITH CLIENTS AND YOUR SUPERIORS, OKAY?
well, it's fine with me
OH, SURE.
AND WHAT ABOUT THESE, WHO DID THEM?

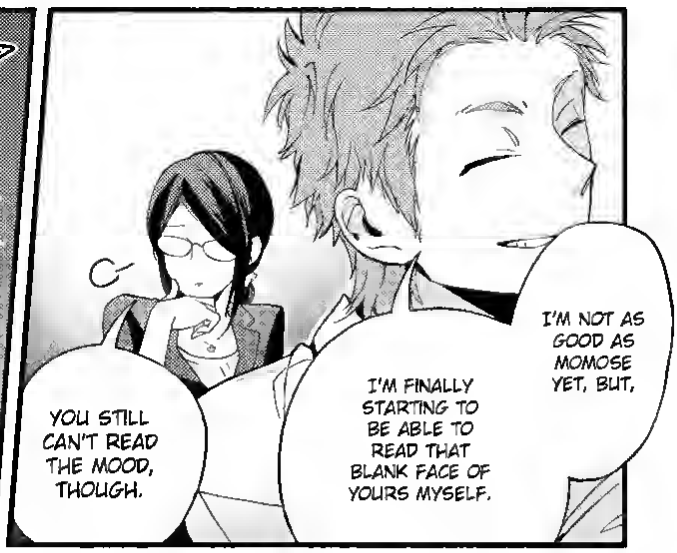
*boku

I THINK SHE WENT TO GET SOME COFFEE FROM STARTBOX.
SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO TRY OUT THEIR NEW DRINK.
I DON'T GUESS YOU KNOW WHERE NARUMI IS, DO YOU?
KOYANAGI, QUICK QUESTION.

...UH, I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING, WHY DO YOU THINK I'M...?
SO SHE PROBABLY DIDN'T INVITE YOU FIGURING YOU'D RATHER NOT GO ANYWAY, DON'T YOU THINK?
WELL, HEY, DON'T GET TOO DOWN. STARTBOX IS NO SMOKING.

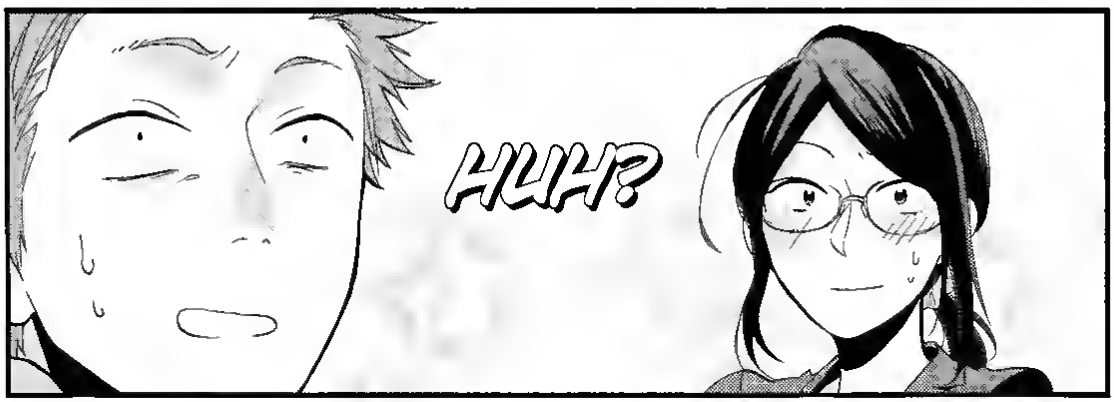
...
OKAY, THANK YOU...

SNAP!
...OHH?

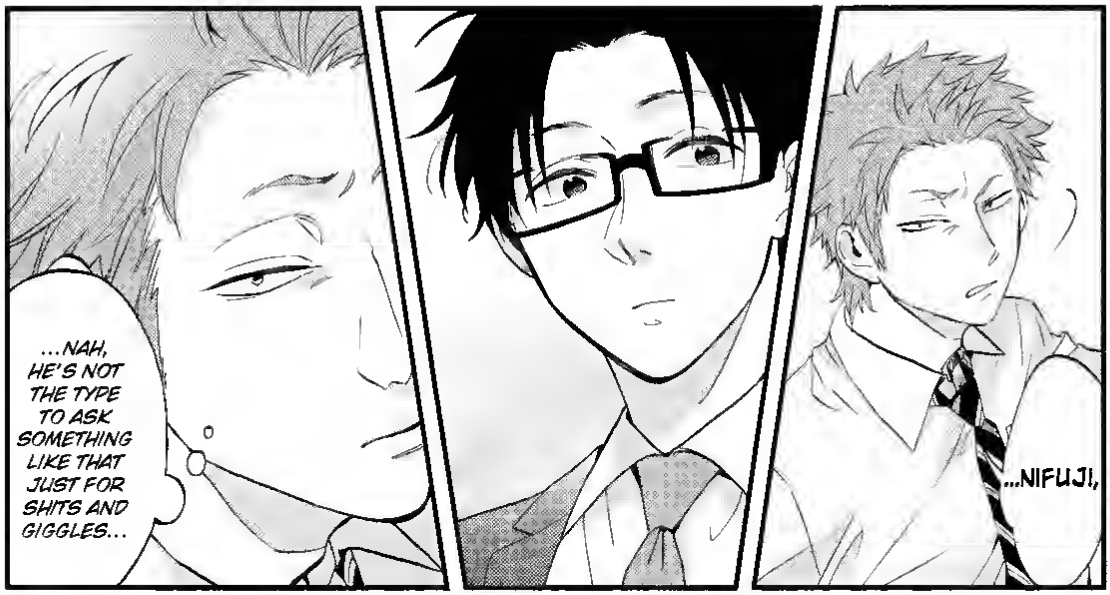

YOU STILL CAN'T READ THE MOOD, THOUGH.
I'M FINALLY STARTING TO BE ABLE TO READ THAT BLANK FACE OF YOURS MYSELF.
I'M NOT AS GOOD AS MOMOSE YET, BUT,

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, BUT I'M AFRAID NONE OF THOSE WORDS YOU JUST SAID MAKE ANY SENSE? WERE YOU TRYING TO SAY YOU ACTUALLY DID READ THE MOOD THERE? IF A PERSONIFICATION OF THE CONCEPT OF "DENSE" LIKE YOU, WITH A FACE OFF A WANTED POSTER FOR A SINGLE-CELLED ORGANISM, WANTED TO BE "CONSIDERATE," MAYBE YOU COULD DO US A FAVOR AND MOP THE FLOOR WITH THAT MUG OF YOURS? HOW ABOUT YOU GET OFF YOUR DAMN HIGH HORSE AND SHUT THE HELL UP.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO YOU, BUT I WOULD I SAY I'M BEING RATHER CONSIDERATE? IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE SEEING ANYTHING BUT YOURSELF THOUGH, SO MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO LOOK INTO GETTING SOME NEW GLASSES? AND ANYWAY, I DON'T THINK I WANT TO HEAR IT FROM A WALKING PUBLIC HAZARD LIKE YOU WHO CAN'T HELP BUT STICK YOUR NOSE INTO EVERYTHING, SO HOW ABOUT YOU SHUT THE HELL UP?
UM,
YEAH, WHAT'S UP
YES, WHAT IS IT
NIFUJI?
.....

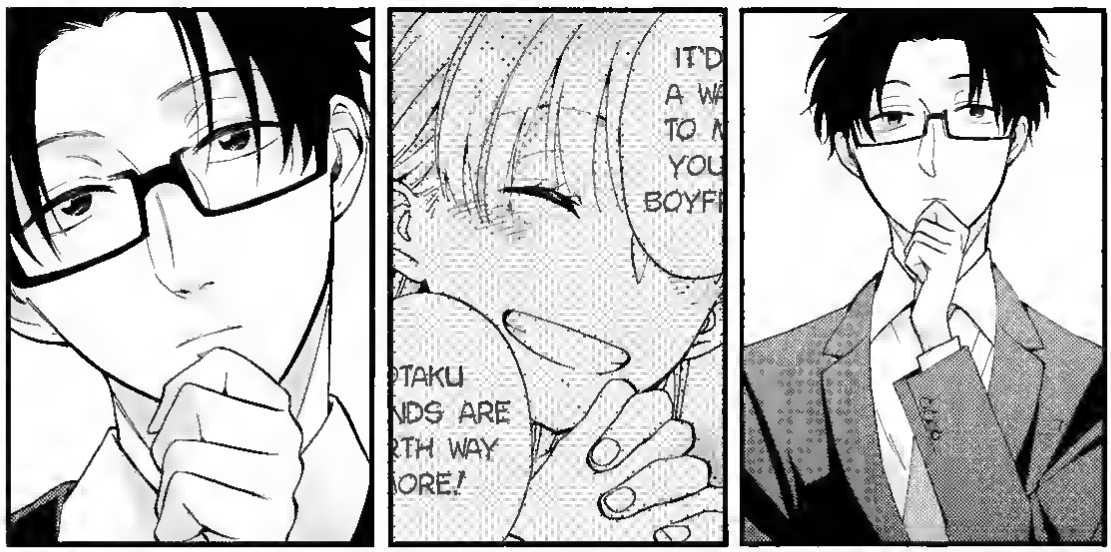
WHAT ARE THE TWO OF YOU LIKE WHEN YOU'RE ALONE TOGETHER?


HUH?

NOT SURE HOW TO ANSWER THAT EXACTLY...
WELL...
glance
I'M CURIOUS.
YOU SEEMED TO BE TALKING NORMALLY A MINUTE AGO, BEFORE I SAID ANYTHING.
YOU'RE NOT ALWAYS FIGHTING LIKE THAT, RIGHT?


...NAH, HE'S NOT THE TYPE TO ASK SOMETHING LIKE THAT JUST FOR SHITS AND GIGGLES...
...NIFUJI,

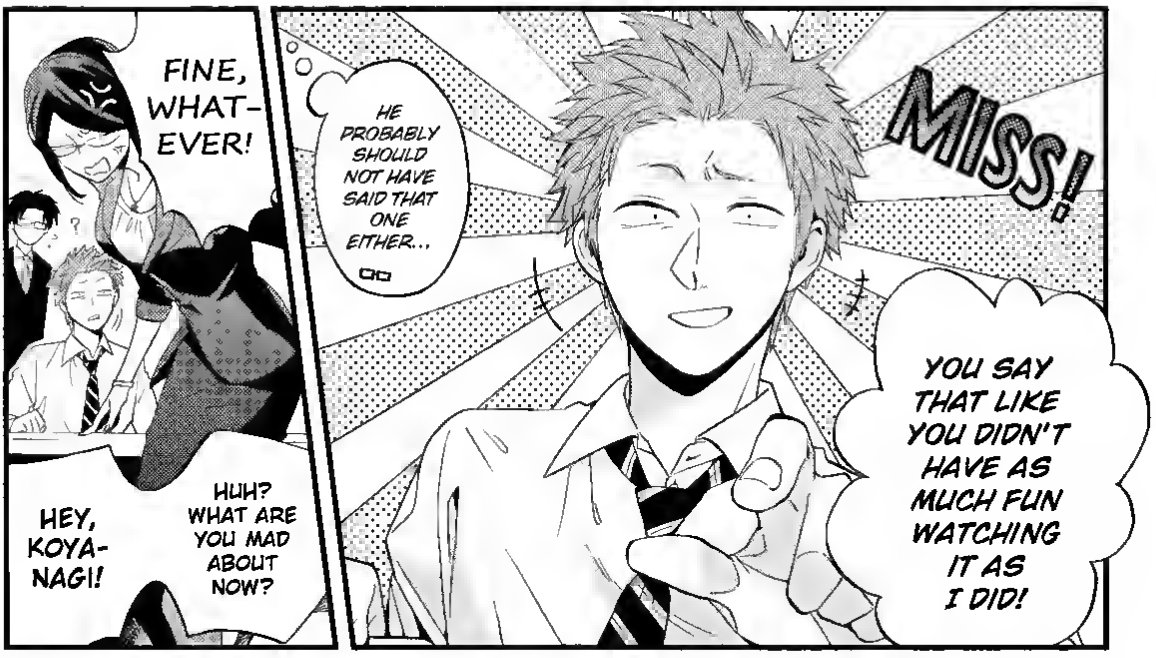
BASICALLY THE SAME AS YOU GUYS, RIGHT?
GO OUT ON OUR DAYS OFF. Y'KNOW, THE USUAL STUFF.
WE GO GET FOOD TOGETHER, PLAY VIDEO GAMES TOGETHER,
NOTHING SPECIAL, JUST A REGULAR COUPLE.

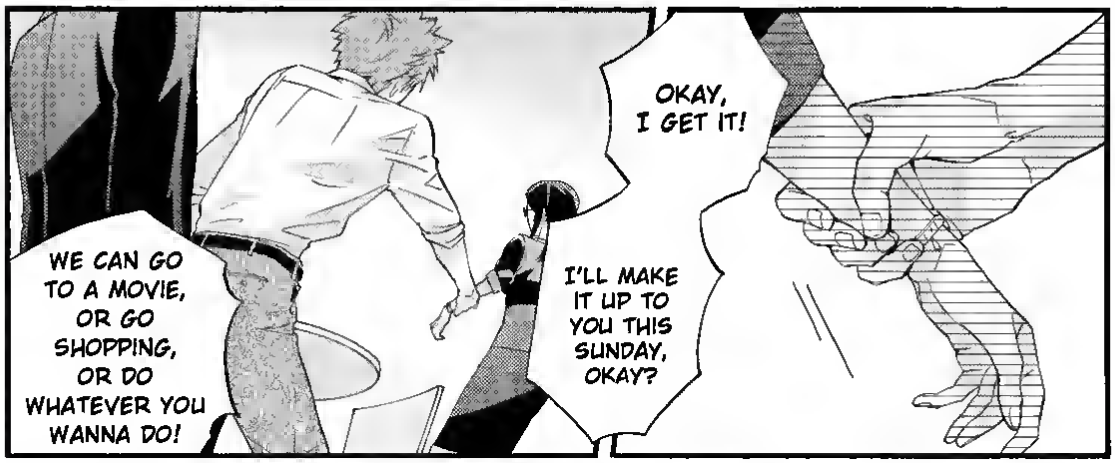

IT'D
A W
TO
YOU
BOYF
OTAKU
NDS ARE
RTH WAY
ORE!

OH...?
WE "GO OUT ON DAYS OFF," DO WE?
AND JUST WHO WAS IT WHO DECIDED TO STAY HOME AND WATCH ANIME INSTEAD OF GOING OUT LAST WEEKEND LIKE WE'D PLANNED, HMMM?
WHA-! YOU...

MISS!
WELL, WHEN ELSE CAN WE WATCH THE BACKLOG OF SHOWS THAT BUILT UP OVER THE WEEK!?
HE PROBABLY SHOULD NOT HAVE SAID THAT.
AND ANY-WAY!
DON'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF OTHER PEOPLE!
THERE YOU GO TRYING TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT AGAIN!

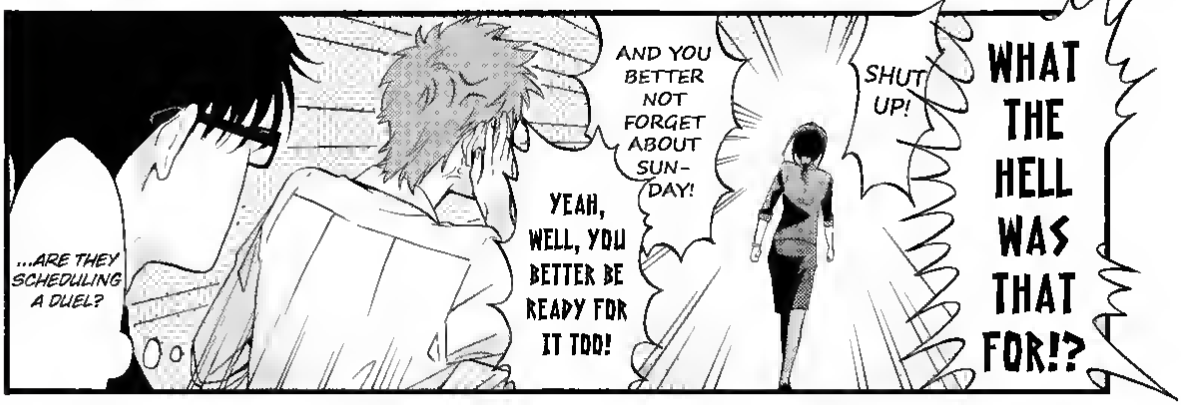
IT'S FINE TO TAKE TIME TO ENJOY YOUR HOBBY, BUT...
I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING OUT, YOU KNOW?


FINE, WHATEVER!
HEY, KOYANAGI!
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU MAD ABOUT NOW?
HE PROBABLY SHOULD NOT HAVE SAID THAT ONE EITHER...
MISS!
YOU SAY THAT LIKE YOU DIDN'T HAVE AS MUCH FUN WATCHING IT AS I DID!


WE CAN GO TO A MOVIE, OR GO SHOPPING, OR DO WHATEVER YOU WANNA DO!
I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU THIS SUNDAY, OKAY?
OKAY, I GET IT!

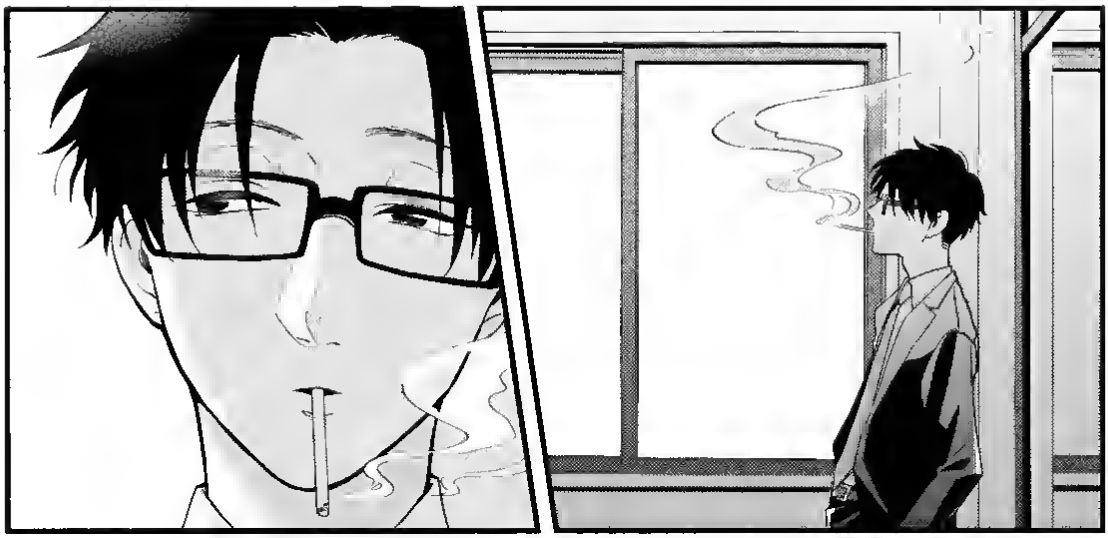
HANAKO?
SO... CAN YOU FORGIVE ME?

!!?
SLAP!!
PUNCH—
HIT!


...ARE THEY SCHEDULING A DUEL?
YEAH, WELL, YOU BETTER BE READY FOR IT TOO!
AND YOU BETTER NOT FORGET ABOUT SUN-DAY!
SHUT UP!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT FOR!?

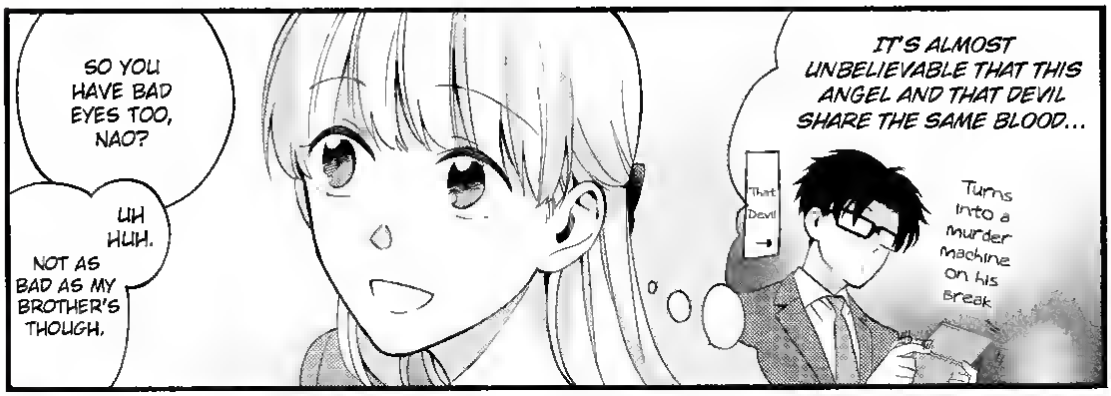
NEVER CHANGES, HUH.
...GOOD LORD!
ギシ…

IT'S NOT THE SAME AT ALL.
HUH?
KABA-KURA, YOU WERE WRONG, EARLIER.
...SOME-THING.
...WHAT ISN'T?
UH...
...I WONDER IF MOMOSE WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD THAT IF SHE WERE HERE.
??
UM, NIFUJI?



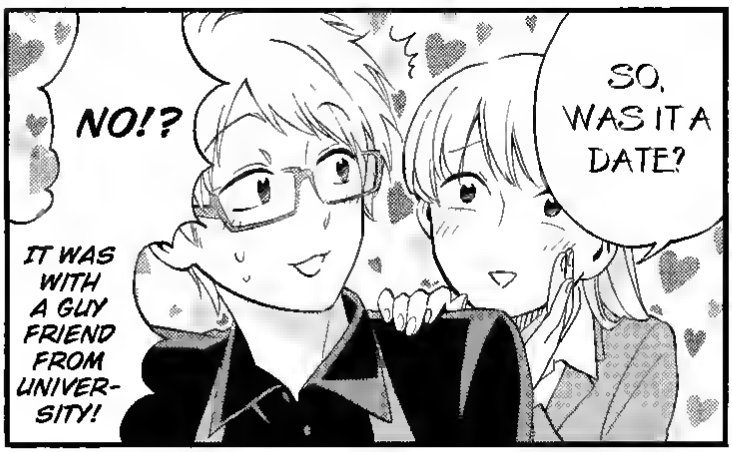
HRMM...

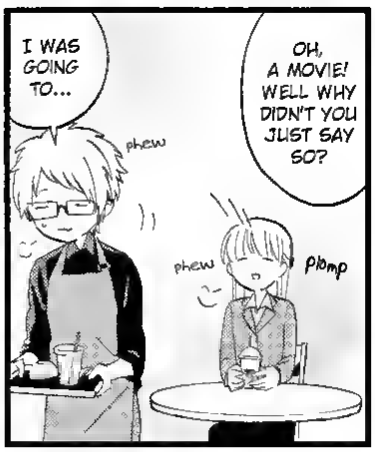
EVEN THE BACKGROUND TONES ARE COMPLETE OPPOSITES...
THE BUILDING BLOCKS ARE THE SAME, SO HOW COME THE END RESULT IS SO DIFFERENT...
UMM...I'M *REALLY* NOT FOLLOWING YOU HERE.
HM? WHAT ISN'T?

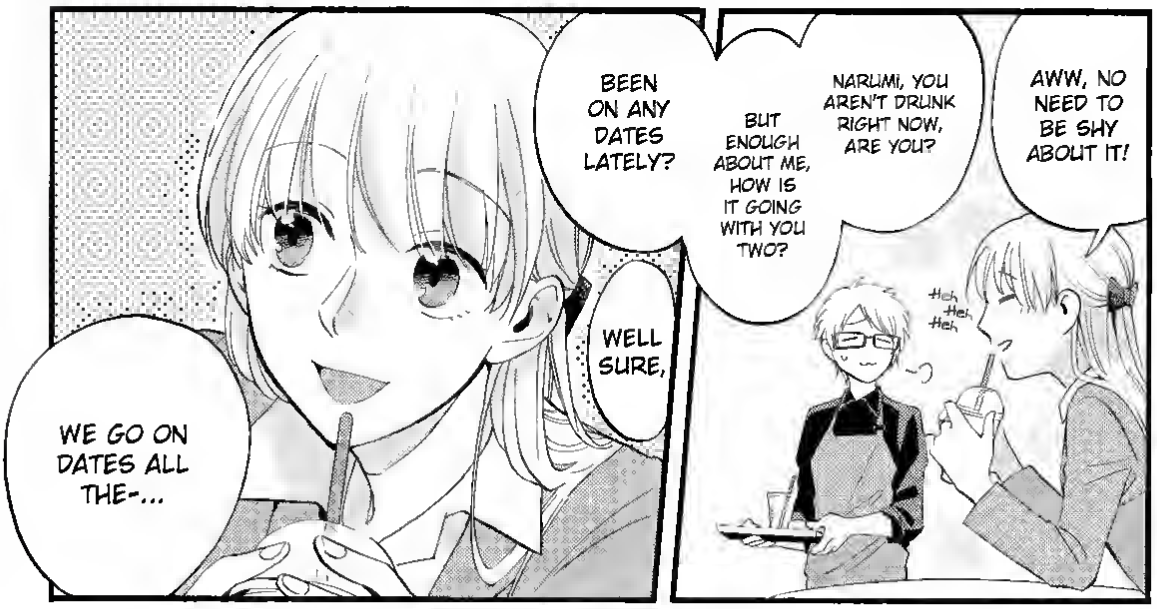

SO YOU HAVE BAD EYES TOO, NAO?
UH HUH. NOT AS BAD AS MY BROTHER'S THOUGH.
IT'S ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE THAT THIS ANGEL AND THAT DEVIL SHARE THE SAME BLOOD...
That Devil
Turns into a murder machine on his break

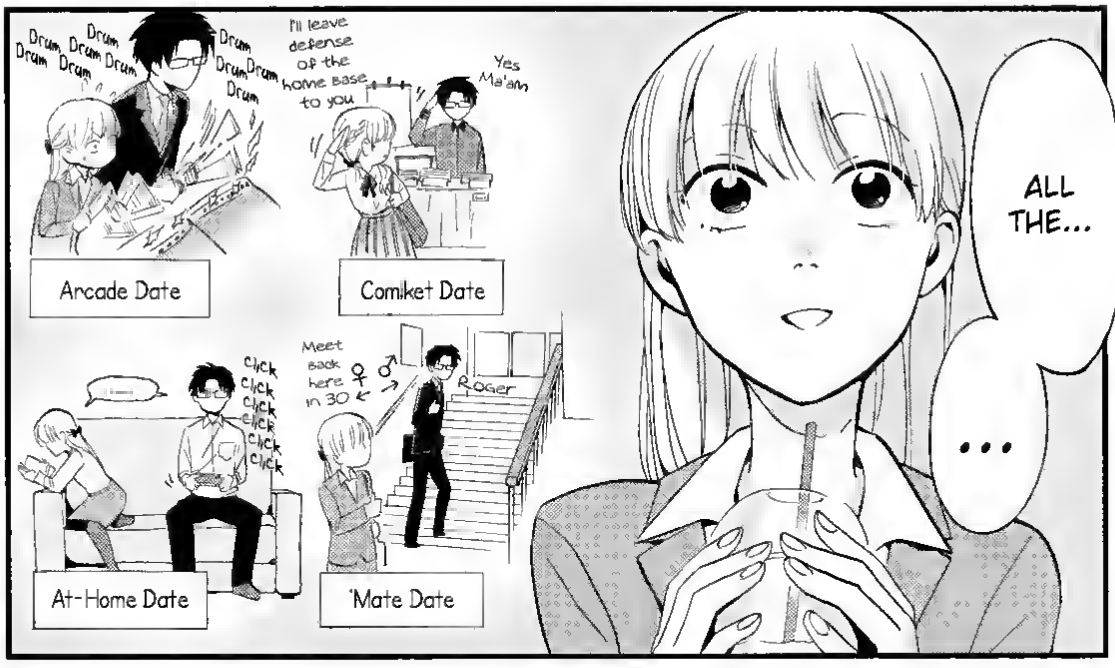
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE HAD A GOOD CRY LIKE THAT! WHAT A NIGHT.
MY EYES WERE STILL ALL PUFFY THIS MORNING AND THEY DIDN'T GO IN WELL.
I USUALLY WEAR CONTACTS, BUT...

WHO WAS IT...
HUH?
JUST WHO WAS THAT MADE MY NAOYA CRY?
HUH!? OH! NO, IT WASN'T LIKE THAT!
You're scaring me!
quiver
quiver
IT WAS JUST A MOVIE! I WENT TO GO SEE ONE WITH A FRIEND YESTERDAY!


SO, WAS IT A DATE?
NO!?
IT WAS WITH A GUY FRIEND FROM UNIVER-SITY!


I WAS GOING TO...
OH, A MOVIE! WELL WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY SO?
phew
phew
plomp

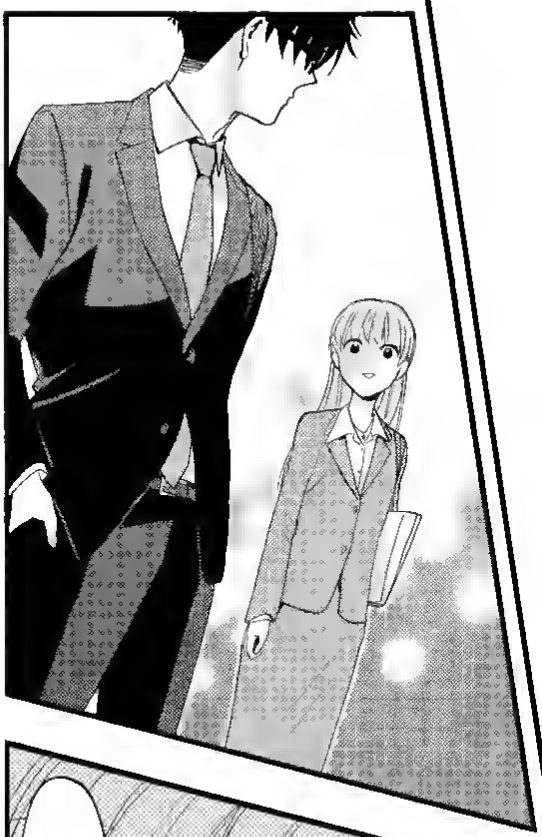

BEEN ON ANY DATES LATELY?
WELL SURE,
WE GO ON DATES ALL THE-...
BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME, HOW IS IT GOING WITH YOU TWO?
NARUMI, YOU AREN'T DRUNK RIGHT NOW, ARE YOU?
AWW, NO NEED TO BE SHY ABOUT IT!
Heh Heh Heh


Drum Drum Drum Drum Drum Drum Drum Drum Drum Drum Drum
Arcade Date
I'll leave defense of the home base to you
Yes Ma'am
Comiket Date
click click click click click click click
At-Home Date
Meet back here in 30
Roger
'Mate Date
ALL THE...
...

HUH? ARE WE GETTING PHILO-SOPHICAL NOW?
WHAT IS A DATE?
NAO.

...DATES, HUH...
peek

NARUMI.
THAT'S JUST THE KIND OF PERSON HIROTAKA IS.
GAMES BEFORE DATES.
...IS PROBABLY WHAT HE'D SAY.
...MY PLACE OKAY?
HM? A DATE?
...
NUH UH.
DID YOU EVER GO TO ARCADES OR BOOK-STORES WITH ANY OF THE OTHER GUYS YOU DATED?
NOT A ONE.
WHAT ABOUT 'MATE OR COMIKE-
SO UH,
CAN I ASK SOMETHING JUST FOR REFERENCE?
YES M' LORD!?
YES, I KNOW.
YES, THIS IS NARU-MI!
...WAIT. WHAT NOW?
WHERE'RE WE GOING ON SUNDAY? 'MATE?
SUNDAY? SURE, NO PROBLEM...
WELL THEN, HOW ABOUT NEXT SUNDAY?
HUH.
WE JUST WENT TO NORMAL PLACES LIKE THE MOVIES OR AMUSEMENT PARKS AND STUFF.
OF COURSE I WOULDN'T, THEY WERE ALL NORMIES, YOU KNOW?



To Be Continued...?

Wotaku ni koi ha Muzukashii.....

Attagirl
Uaaagh...
Uwooaah...

Afterword

Big thanks to everyone at Ichijinsha and Prhythm Vision!

While the author was taking their sweet time getting no work done, some wonderful folks made a bunch of promotional videos!

By the way,

Ichijinshaaaaa

Hello, long time no see.

This is Fujita.

Ichijinsha's true power...!!!

His performance was cute, but without seeming childish, perfect for that young college kid feel. Exactly how I imagined him!

Nifuji Naoya
KAJI YUUKI

But mostly just cool as heck! If Kabakura were really like that, he'd get all the ladies!

Super mega cool, but also a little jaded.

Kabakura Tarou
SUGITA TOMOKAZU

Her sexy and cool, yet occasionally playful and cute, performance was amazing!

The casting was extremely extravagant.

Koyanagi Hanako
SAWASHIRO MIYUKI

I felt bad for him too, because he's an actor, but still had to deliver everything in Hirotaka's monotone. What a waste! I'm sorry! He's also a singer, so maybe we'll see a character song some day!

For the afterword this time, I want to report some scenes from the studio recording.

Nifuji Hirotaka
ITOU KENTO

SO CHARMING!

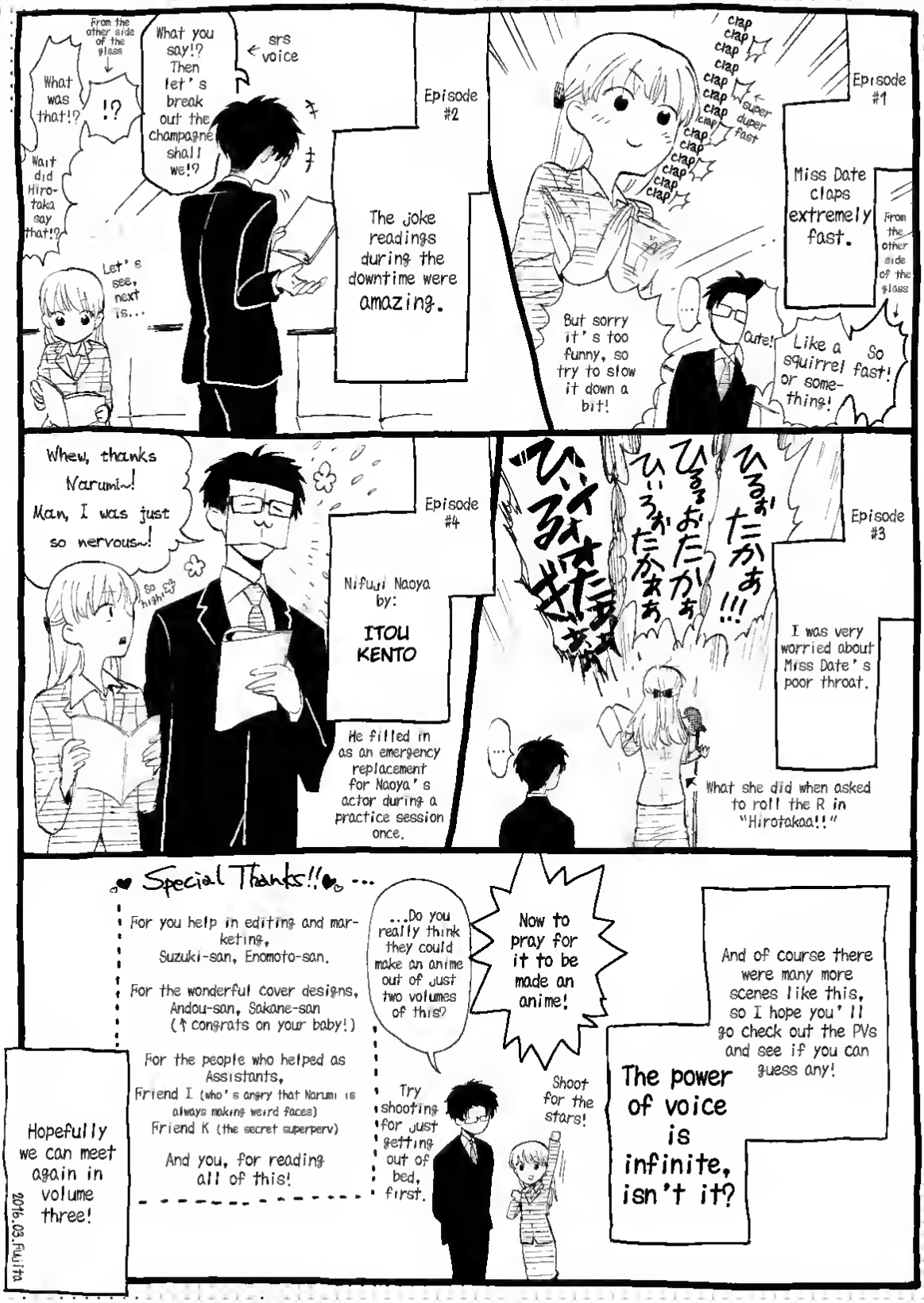
We look forward to working with you!

hard to believe someone so cute is a mahjong player!

I love her cute, energetic voice! I felt bad that so many of her lines had direction like "say it like a grumpy old man."

Momose Narumi
DATE ARISA

And of course, the two who covered the bulk of the work...


Episode #1
Miss Date claps extremely fast.
clap clap clap

Credits:

Art and Author: Fujita

Notes:

And that's the end of volume 2!

"Tones" (from Narumi's "background tones" line) are the textures and stuff used for those flowers/hearts/stars/dots/etc. for backgrounds/shadows/most anything that isn't straight black or white.

The "murder machine" line was originally a reference to the Japanese fan community's nickname for Act 4 of Johnny Jostar's stand, Tusk. The nickname is translated literally as "Absolute Kill Man" (zettai korosu man)

As came up in some earlier chapters, 'Mate is short for Animate,
a manga/anime/general otaku stuff chain of stores.
It usually has floors divided between general stuff, male-oriented stuff, and female-oriented stuff,
which explains why they split up on that "date."

Ichijinsha is a big publisher, Ichirinsha is unicycle.

The promotional videos are basically voice recordings over still images of the characters doing short, 4th wall breaking skits advertising the manga.

Sawashiro Miyuki's other roles include:
Seo from Gekkan Shoujo Nozaki-kun
Wakako from Wakako-zake
Shinku from Rozen Maiden
Marisa from that Touhou fan anime
Literally a million other things.

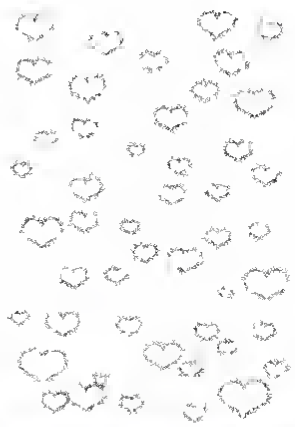
Mothafwiggin Sugita Tomokazu's other roles include:
Kyon from Haruhi
Gintoki from Gintama
Joseph Joestar from Jojo's Bizarre Adventure
Himself in Lucky Star
Literally a million other things.

Kaji Yuuki's other roles include:
Eren from Attack on Titan
Phoenix Wright in the 2016 Ace Attorney anime
He's also done a lot of generic shounen protagonists.

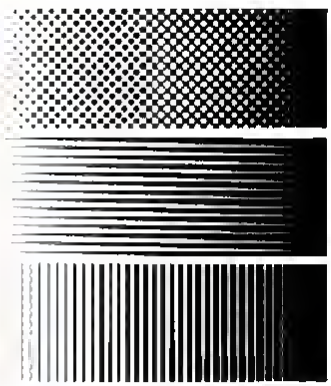
Date Arisa's other roles include:
Nanba Emi from Cinderella Girls
Ueshiga Suzu from Saki
Not a whole lot else, she's pretty new.

Itou Kento's other roles include:
Mostly bit parts.

A couple of the PVs mentioned.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7KjE3Eytzc
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Kj5KvtgRhk



Some examples of tones



The game they were playing at the "arcade date"